The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENTION EDITION

WHOLE NO. 1343 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1937 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 27, NO. 2

56TH ANNUAL AFL CONVENTION

Four Hundred and Ninety-three Delegates, Representing 336 Organizations, Attend Two Weeks' Session of Organized Labor's Parliament.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The fifty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was held in Tampa, Fla., November 16 to 27, 1936.

It was one of the most important conventions ever held by the A. F. of L.

There were 493 delegates in attendance, representing 87 National and International Unions, 35 State Federations of Labor, 125 Central Labor Unions, 83 Trade and Federal Labor Unions, and four departments of the American Federation of Labor. In addition, there were three fraternal delegates.

The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor is Organized Labor's Parliament. It is in reality Labor's Parliament and Supreme Court in one body.

The 1936 convention was confronted with many stupendous problems. The action of the convention on the subjects which came before it, based on the official proceedings, is recorded in this special issue of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR



Frank Duffy, First Vice-President; T. A. Rickert, Second Vice-President; Matthew Woll, Third Vice-President; Frank Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer; William Green, President; John Coefield, Fourth Vice-President; Arthur O. Wharton, Fifth Vice-President; Joseph N. Weber, Sixth Vice-President



G. M. Bugniazet, Seventh Vice-President; Geo. M. Harrison, Eighth Vice-President; Daniel J. Tobin, Ninth Vice-President; Harry C. Bates, Tenth Vice-President; Edward J. Gainor, Eleventh Vice-President; W. D. Mahon, Twelfth Vice-President; Felix H. Knight, Thirteenth Vice-President; Geo. E. Browne, Fourteenth Vice-President; Edward Flore, Fifteenth Vice-President

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor consists of the President of the Federation, 15 Vice Presidents, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The members are elected by the annual convention of the Federation for one year, their terms beginning on January 1 following the convention. The Council is the administrative agency of the American Federation of Labor. It is required to give a detailed report of its activities to the annual convention. The duties of the Council include watching legislative matters affecting the interests of working men and women, organizing workers into unions either directly affiliated with the Federation or with affiliated national and international unions, chartering unions, requiring observance by affiliated unions of the obligations assumed in their certificates of affiliation, and administering the funds of the Federation, which in the fiscal year 1936-1937 totaled over one and one-half million dollars.

A. F. of L. Reports Membership Growth

Secretary-Treasurer Morrison Declares 1,548,580 Have Been Added to Union Rolls Since August 31, 1933, With Heavy Increases During Last Four Months.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The successful organization activities of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions during the past three years, and especially during the last four months of 1936, are revealed in the following statement by Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor:

"The average membership of the unions chartered by the A. F. of L. for September, October, November and December, 1936, shows an increase of 225,352 members over the same months of the last fiscal year.

"The A. F. of L. membership for [illegible]ember, 1936, is 3,675,376, which [illegible] an increase of 1,548,580 over [illegible] membership for the year endin[illegible] 31, 1933. [illegible] the American Federation of Labor [illegible] more charters for December, 1936, than were issued in any one month since August, 1934."

Issue in A. F. of L. Controversy With C. I. O. Explained by Green

Declares Main Question Is Preservation of Majority Rule in American Federation of Labor—Holds That Craft vs. Industrial Unions Is Fictitious Issue—Ten Suspended Unions Refused to Abide by Decision of Atlantic City Convention and Repulsed All Efforts of Executive Council to Adjust the Dispute in Accordance With A. F. of L. Principles, He Asserts.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

After a thorough debate, extending from three o'clock in the afternoon until midnight of one day of the recent annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Tampa, Florida, the convention adopted by a vote of 21,679 to 2,043 the report of the Resolutions Committee approving the action of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in finding that the Committee for Industrial Organization is a dual organization functioning within the American Federation of Labor as such, and in its administrative activities it is clearly competing as a rival organization with the American Federation of Labor, and requiring ten A. F. of L. unions who were members of the C. I. O. to either dissolve that organization or stand automatically suspended from the American Federation of Labor. The unions refused to give up their membership in the C. I. O. and thereby separated themselves from the Federation.

The debate on the report of the Resolutions Committee was closed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who declared that the main issue in the controversy was the preservation of majority rule in the American Federation of Labor, which he demonstrated had been definitely opposed by the Committee for Industrial Organization.

He held that the question, interjected into the controversy, of craft unionism versus industrial unionism was a fictitious issue, and cited the industrial form existing in unions already chartered by the American Federation of Labor. The A. F. of L. Executive Council, he said, had done everything reasonable within its power to adjust the controversy, but that all efforts along this line had been definitely repulsed by the Committee for Industrial Organization. He urged the necessity of a united labor movement, and said that in its action the convention of the American Federation of Labor had left the door open for the return of the C. I. O. unions to the home of organized labor.

Following is the text of Mr. Green's speech:

I think as a matter of right that the President of the American Federation of Labor should at this stage of the proceedings present to you certain facts and information which ought to help you arrive at a sound conclusion.

With your permission, therefore, I will take advantage of this opportunity to speak to you for just a few moments. Let us strip the issue bare. Let us have it before us in naked form. That is what I will endeavor to do—present the issue clear so that you can see and understand it.

Majority Rule Stressed

The Atlantic City convention of the American Federation of Labor rendered a decision by a vote of 18,000 to 10,000. Was that a majority vote? And should the majority vote control or the minority? Every delegate from a central body, every officer from a national union, every representative of the Federal Labor Unions ought to stand unflinchingly here in this open forum in defense of majority rule.

Suppose in Milwaukee the Central Labor Union decided a question, two thirds of the delegates voting one way and one third another way. What would the Milwaukee Central Labor Union do if that third who lost the fight would go out and organize for the purpose of compelling you to accept their will?

What would the International Typographical Union do if, after a question is decided in a convention by a majority vote, a minority would go out, organize, elect officers, set up headquarters, employ organizers, print an official publication, and announce to the world that, "We are going to organize for the purpose of compelling the majority to accept the decision of the minority"? You wouldn't stand for it a minute. Well, if you wouldn't, how can you consistently ask the American Federation of Labor to stand for something you wouldn't tolerate for a single second?

Council's Action on the CIO

Well, following the adjournment of the Atlantic City convention, a public announcement was made of the formation of this new organization. We read that with feelings of deep concern. And immediately the most courteous letter that man's mind could conceive was sent, pointing out the danger of such a move, the possibility of division and strife and hatred and enmity and reprisal. Please don't do it; please stop right now; don't rip the labor movement apart.

The Executive Council was inspired by only one desire, and that was to preserve solidarity and unity. Who set up the rival organization? Was it the Executive Council? If the logic of some of the speakers in this convention tonight is sound, it is the Executive Council that is the culprit. Why is it to be denounced? Please don't do it. Please, representatives of the CIO, stop. Weigh the consequences of your contemplated acts. Please don't do it. And what was the answer? Well, you know. It is in the report.

Refused to Attend Conferences

The Executive Council did not stop there. It invited them to come within and talk it over. Please come, they said. Won't you come? When the first meeting of the Executive Council was held in January nobody came. And, mark you, it had its officers, president, secretary, director, headquarters, an official publication and all. What other kind of a dress must a movement wear in order to be a rival movement?

They did not come. Well, the Council then decided to send a committee, and it sent the committee, and the

(Continued on Page 8)

A. F. of L. Convention Proceedings Summarized

The following topical summary of the declarations of the Fifty-sixth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Tampa, Fla., November 16 to November 27, 1936, is compiled from the official text of the convention proceedings:

A

ADULT EDUCATION.

Public educational facilities for the adult population of the United States was urged by the convention. Pointing out that few university extension courses, correspondence courses and available adult educational facilities are planned especially for the needs of the working population, the convention declared "the average adult facing some problem in work or in living, feels the need of information and counsel that he may know what to do with his problems," and insisted that "the working population should be able to look to our university extension for educational help and to our Government for informational service and counsel." The convention asked "cooperation from every state university and information and counsel from Federal and state governments upon the business of promoting the well-being of 78 per cent of our population" included in the ranks of Labor.

AGRICULTURAL, PACKING HOUSE AND CANNERY WORKERS.

International Charter.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council six resolutions recommending the granting of a charter to agricultural, packing house and cannery workers. It was pointed out that there are over 3,000,000 workers in this group and that the low wage scales imposed upon them because of lack of organization adversely affects the wage scales of skilled workers throughout the United States.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

Discriminatory Legislation.—The convention concurred with a resolution requiring the American Federation of Labor to take "immediate steps to remove all discriminations, exclusions and exemptions from all existing Federal legislation as regards agricultural workers and their families," urging state federations of labor "to remove similar discriminations, exclusions and exemptions from existing state social and labor legislation," and instructing the A. F. of L. "to secure equal rights of agricultural workers with industrial workers in all pending social and labor legislation which it initiates or supports."

The resolution charged that "agricultural workers are consistently discriminated against in almost every case of federal and state legislation dealing with the welfare and social security of American workers," specifically mentioning in this connection the National Recovery Act, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Black-Connery Thirty-Hour Week Bill and the Wagner Labor Disputes Act. In the field of state legislation the resolution charged that agricultural workers are denied the old age and unemployment insurance benefits of the Federal Social Security Act, that workmen's compensation laws do not protect agricultural workers, that child labor laws exempt children engaged in agriculture, that social legislation on behalf of women "almost invariably" exempts women engaged in agriculture, that laws regulating school attendance exempt children engaged in agricultural pursuits and that "agricultural workers are exempt from the provisions of laws requiring regular payment of wages within certain limited periods."

The resolution expressed the opinion that "this constant neglect of and discrimination against the largest body of wage workers employed in any U. S. industry in all federal and state legislation is partially the result of inattention on the part of labor organizations," and warned that "a continuation of these gross and unjustifiable discriminations, exclusions and exemptions endanger the entire structure of our social and labor legislation designed to protect American workers."

AIR MAIL PILOTS.

The Air Line Pilots Association was congratulated by the convention for its "outstanding victory" in having all the provisions except section 3 of the Railway Labor Act extended to cover every common carrier by air engaged in interstate and foreign commerce and every carrier by air transporting mail for or under contract with the United States Government, and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to continue its support of legislation for the protection of aviation workers as this industry develops and thus reveals new personnel problems." The Executive Council told the convention the amendment to the Railway Labor Act "also applies to every air pilot or other person who performs any work as an employe or subordinate official" of every carrier or carriers included in the measure.

ALASKAN RAILROAD.

Employes.—Gratification was expressed by the convention for the extension of retirement legislation to the employes of the Alaskan Railroad in a law enacted by Congress providing pensions for those who reach the age of fifty-five years and have rendered at least 25 years of service, of which not less than 15 years shall have been rendered in the territory of Alaska. The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to support legislation endorsed by the railroad unions to secure the inclusion of Alaskan Railroad employes in the 40-hour week law for postal employes. The Executive Council told the convention the shorter work week law for postal employes "was supposed to include the Alaska Railroad workers, but Comptroller McCarl ruled otherwise."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES.

Legislative Program.—The convention recommended for the favorable consideration of the AFL Executive Council a resolution declaring that the American Federation of Labor endorses the following legislative program of the American Federation of Government Employes, with the assurance that the representatives of the A. F. of L. "will use every effort toward bringing this forward looking program to a successful conclusion":

"A minimum wage of $1,500 per annum for all full time employes with statutory automatic increases in salary; a five day week of 35 hours with no decreases in pay to be applied throughout the Government Service; extensions of the merit system to include all branches of the civil Government; the extension of the Classification Act to the field services; thirty-year optional retirement with the additional provisions that employes retired on account of disability who recover, be given the same status as an employe not voluntarily separated after 15 years of service and having reached the age of 55 years, until such time as his re-employment can be effected; optional Q. S. & L.—the cost to be applied uniformly to all positions wherein the furnishing of such services is involved; application of the night differential to all positions requiring night shifts; payment of not less than the prevailing wage to craft employes in agencies not affected by wage boards or other machinery for fixing adequate wages; repeal of Section 213 which is a discriminatory measure; provisions of opportunity for promotion of qualified employes prior to the development of Civil Service eligible lists so that the higher positions will be filled by promotion thereby establishing the Civil Service as a career service; creation of a Civil Service Board of Appeals so organized as to fully protect the rights of employes."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Departments.—The convention amended Section 8 of Article 15 of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor by increasing the number of members of the Executive Council of each department from seven to nine. It was pointed out that in the understanding reached for the adjustment of the controversy in the Building Trades Department it was agreed that there should be two additional vice presidents added to the Executive Council of the Department, but that the existing rule limiting the number of vice presidents to seven made the application of the agreement impossible.

Financial Statement for Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 1936.—The convention unanimously adopted the report of the Auditing Committee on the financial transactions of the American Federation of Labor for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1935, and ending August 31, 1936. The committee found "all books and records accurate and correct in every respect." On August 31, 1935, there was a balance of $622,954.53. The total receipts for the year amounted to $924,390.38, while the total expenses amounted to $977,938.92, making the expenses $53,548.54 more than the receipts. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was $569,405.99.

In connection with the excess of expenses over receipts for the fiscal year the convention said: "It should be borne in mind that the expenses included an item of $151,656.02 which was paid out in strike benefits to Local Federal Labor Unions. Had it not been for this large amount paid out of the Defense Fund, the total receipts would have exceeded the total expenses in a substantial sum.

"In other words, if the $151,656.02 paid out in strike benefits were to be eliminated from the expenses, the total receipts would have exceeded the total expenses in the amount of $98,107.48."

International Federation of Trade Unions.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring affiliation of the American Federation of Labor with the International Federation of Trade Unions and instructing the Executive Council to take immediate measures to finalize affiliation in the shortest possible time "so that labor can through united international action meet the great problems confronting it at this time."

Legislation for Government Employes.—The convention accepted with appreciation a resolution presented by delegates representing eight international unions whose members include, in whole or in part, Government employes, expressing the deepest gratitude of the delegates of these unions and their fellow members to the American Federation of Labor and its allies for assistance given with respect to legislation concerning federal workers. The unions presenting the resolution were the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks, National Association of Letter Carriers, Railway Mail Association, American Federation of Government Employes, International Association of Machinists; International Plate Printers, Dye Stampers and Engravers' Union of North America; International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

"Organizations of Government workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor," the resolution said, "have been successful in repealing adverse legislation, these victories including repeal of wage cuts, restoration of promotions, vacations, differentials for night work and numerous other hard-won and deeply-cherished rights and privileges, and large numbers, notably in the postal service, have gained through legislation the five day week and other benefits, thus not only benefiting themselves but more firmly establishing the principle of shorter hours in industry. These very notable victories would have been impossible without the energetic influence and backing of organized labor and the continuous co-operation and assistance of its officers."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR DAILY NEWSPAPER.

In regard to a resolution adopted by the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor recommending the establishment of an A. F. of L. daily newspaper, the convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council estimating the daily cost for an issue of 30,000 copies, both for editorials and production, would be approximately $550, not taking into consideration the increased cost of office personnel, and stating that under these conditions it seemed impossible for the Council to arrange for the financing and publication of such a paper until and unless the A. F. of L. membership provides the necessary funds.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYES.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in granting a charter to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes on October 16, 1936. The convention was informed by the Council that this organization had been an affiliate of the American Federation of Government Employes, but that it later developed that the best interests of both the Government Employes Federation and the State, County and Municipal Employes Federation would be served by the issuance of a separate charter to the latter organization.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS.

The 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor instructed the AFL Executive Council to make a thorough investigation of charges that the American Federation of Teachers is controlled by those openly hostile to the American Federation of Labor. The Executive Council reported that Vice President Bugniazet, President Frey of the AFL Metal Trades Department, and Secretary-Treasurer Burke of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, appointed to investigate the charges, held extensive hearings and transmitted their findings to the Council with the statement that the case was not one to be considered by the A. F. of L., but was a matter to be acted upon entirely by the American Federation of Teachers itself. The Executive Council recommended to the American Federation of Teachers that the charter of Teachers Local No. 5 in New York City should be revoked. The convention concurred in the Executive Council's report.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER GUILD.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in granting a charter to the American Newspaper Guild on July 23, 1936. The Council reported that prior to the issuance of the charter to the Guild "we gave our moral support to and aided and co-operated with its officers in every way within our power to attain the objects for which they were striving."

AMERICAN OPTICAL COMPANY.

Anti-Labor Policy.—Acting in compliance with the request of the National Council of Optical Technicians and Workers of America, the convention declared itself in favor of placing before the Federal Trade Commission "such evidence as may be necessary" to show that the American Optical Company of South Bridge, Massachusetts, and the Bausch and Lomb Company of Rochester, N. Y., have a "practical monopoly" of furnishing glass used by opticians throughout the country, and "by conspiracy not only prevent the rights of the workers in the industry to collectively bargain but also prevent retail merchants from exercising their business rights to deal collectively with the union without any interference on the part of these two corporations."

The resolution concurred in by the convention pointed out that for the past three years the American Federation of Labor has attempted to carry on an organization and education campaign for the workers in the optical industry, resulting in the establishment of some 20 federal labor unions in the United States and Canada, with a national council under the direction of the A. F. of L. to continue this work, but that their efforts are materially handicapped by these corporations who "because of their control of the glass sold to the retailers through credits and other systems, exercise so much power that in every case where unions are attempting to form in any community, these corporations either by intimidation of the retailers or through their spy system obstruct and prevent successful organization work."

AMERICAN YOUTH ACT.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council three resolutions proposing that the American Federation of Labor go on record as endorsing the principles of the American Youth Act. In justification of this procedure the Resolutions Committee reported that at the third convention of the American Youth, held on July 3, 4 and 5, 1936, "there were present representatives of church organizations, many representatives of trade unions, many representatives of student bodies. Some of these organizations of student bodies are actually a part of the Communist Party. In addition to these student bodies there was represented there the Communist youth opposition group, the Young Workers' League, the Young Communist League of the National Committee of the Communist Party of the United States. For these reasons we are of the opinion, and we recommend, that the Executive Council should have an opportunity of knowing just what is tied up in this national youth proposition before they decide

(Continued on Page 2)

Notice!

This edition of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service contains a Topical Summary of the action taken on various subjects by the Fifty-sixth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Tampa, Fla., Nov. 16-27, 1936.

Complete proceedings of the Convention are available, in book form, durably bound, at 75c a copy, and $60 per hundred copies.

The complete report of the Executive Council, as submitted to this Convention, may also be had, in book form, at 35c a copy.

Send Orders Direct to:

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Washington, D. C.

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 1)

what the policy of the Federation shall be."

ANTI-TRUST LAWS AND LABOR.

The convention concurred with a resolution which declared that anti-trust laws in the past have been used primarily against organized labor throughout the United States, and in fact most of the cases that affected labor organizations, and instructed the officers and legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor "to endeavor to use all of the means available to protect labor from the application of the anti-trust laws."

B

BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Financing Business Enterprises Imposing Unfair Conditions of Employment.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council "for further study and appropriate action" a resolution requesting the American Federation of Labor to file legislation with the incoming Congress to amplify the safeguards now surrounding the so-called legal investments of and by savings banks, savings departments of trust companies and domestic life insurance companies by "requiring that no such institutions invest money under their control in securities or otherwise whenever such moneys are to be used in any enterprise or business that has to do with the employment of labor, unless the issuer of such securities or other business borrower comply with obligations identical to those indicated and set forth in Section 7 and related sections of the Wagner Labor Act."

The resolution also recommended that the American Federation of Labor urge all state federations of labor to undertake like action to the end that "those in control of the life savings of wage earners and thus the credit of our country may not make use of such wealth to finance employers antag[illegible] tic to the aims and activities [illegible] trade union movement."

The subject matter of the [illegible] stated that savings institutio[illegible] surance companies "control [illegible] proportion of the liquid wealth o[illegible] wage earners," and frequently finance employers "hostile to the aims of organized labor." The resolution added that "employer interference with the right of self organization of employes threatens industrial peace and thus the security and value of wage earners savings in such banking institutions and life insurance companies."

BAUSCH AND LOMB COMPANY.

Anti-Labor Policy.—The convention endorsed an appeal of the National Council of Optical Technicians and Workers of America to have placed before the Federal Trades Commission "such evidence as may be necessary" to show that the American Optical Company of South Bridge, Mass., and the Bausch and Lomb Company of Rochester, N. Y., have a "practical monopoly" of furnishing glass used by opticians throughout the country, and "by conspiracy not only prevent the rights of the workers in industry to collectively bargain but also prevent retail merchants from exercising their rights to deal collectively with the union without any interference on the part of these two corporations."

The resolution concurred in by the convention pointed out that for the past three years the American Federation of Labor has attempted to carry on an organization and education campaign for the workers in the optical industry, resulting in the establishment of some 20 federal labor unions in the United States and Canada, with a national council under the direction of the A. F. of L. to continue this work, but that their efforts are materially handicapped by these corporations who "because of their control of the glass sold to the retailers through credits and other systems exercise so much power that in every case where unions are attempting to form in any community these corporations either by intimidation of the retailers or through their spy system obstruct and prevent successful organization work."

BEET FIELD WORKERS.

The convention approved the activities of the Executive Council in regard to a bill introduced by Senator Costigan of Colorado to protect the welfare of domestic producers and processors of sugar beets and sugar cane, and domestic consumers of sugar. The bill also contained provisions for grants to tenants, adherent planters and sharecroppers with stipulations fixing the hours at which children shall be worked.

BLIND.

Federal Aid.—The convention expressed its pleasure at the steps taken by Congress for the protection of the blind and the otherwise afflicted as being "in the direction of making the workmen's compensation laws models in this field," and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to continue effort and cooperation with the unions of government employes and state federations for this laudable purpose."

This action of the convention was taken in connection with the Executive Council's report that the second session of the Seventy-fourth Congress enacted legislation authorizing "the operation of stands in federal buildings by blind persons to enlarge their economic opportunities," providing that "injured employes awarded compensation for total disability for injuries are entitled to an additional sum of not more than $50 per month for the services of an attendant necessary if the employe is totally blind," with "a similar amount for employes who have lost both hands or feet, or who are paralyzed and unable to walk, or by reason of other total disability which actually renders them so helpless as to require constant attendance."

BOMB AND MACHINE GUN PERMITS.

There were three resolutions before the convention protesting against the possession by employers of machine guns, rifles, gas bombs and similar weapons of warfare for use in industrial disputes with recommendations that legislation be enacted drastically restricting permits to possess these weapons or making such possession unlawful.

The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council "make a thorough study of the practice of employers to accumulate what may properly be termed munitions of war, and which are used not for the protection of property, but to attack workers on strike, and that the Executive Council as a result of such investigation promote and support appropriate legislation which will prevent the existence of arsenals in private hands, and which will further provide that no arms of any character for the purpose of protecting property shall be in the possession of employers, except when permit has been granted by the legally constituted authorities, and such permit made a matter of public record."

The resolutions pointed out that "corporations and managers possess and maintain arms, such as machine guns, gas bombs, rifles and other war equipment, solely for the purpose of intimidating, threatening and even killing industrial and other workers when strikes, walkouts and other labor disputes occur," and said that "such war equipment should only be possessed by constituted authority such as the police, State militia and the United States Army."

BRUNET, GEORGE R.

Fraternal Delegate from Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.—The convention presented an engraved watch, chain and knife to George R. Brunet, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. The convention also presented Mrs. Brunet with an engraved platinum watch set with diamonds.

BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in granting a charter to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters on June 2, 1936. "We cooperated in every possible way," the Council reported, "in organizing the sleeping car porters into local unions until finally the local unions in number and membership were sufficiently strong to warrant the issuance of a national union charter."

BUENOS AIRES PEACE CONFERENCE.

Labor Delegates.—The mission of the President of the United States to the Pan American Conference in Buenos Aires, "to further the cause of international understanding in the Western Hemisphere," was commended by the convention, which also expressed the hope that the conference would give consideration to the "material standards of the workers, their standard of living and the general improvement of the standard of living in the States of the American continent" as proposed in the motion adopted by the Sixth Pan American Conference held at Havana in 1928.

BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT.

The convention approved the reorganization of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, effective March 25, 1936, with the provision for settling jurisdictional disputes, the final determination to be made by a referee, Dr. John A. Lapp. "Peace and harmony," the convention said, "prevailed in the Department since its re-organization. The Department is now functioning for the benefit of its affiliated membership and to the best interest of the affiliated national and international organizations and its state and local building trades councils and with greater cooperation from all sources to the satisfaction of those whom it serves. The Department is 100 per cent in affiliation and is prepared to meet issues whatever they may be with perfect confidence and security."

C

CENTRAL LABOR BODIES.

Basis of Representation of Local Unions.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution proposing to amend Section 11 of Article XI of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor so as to provide "proportional representation" of local unions in central labor bodies. In lieu of the resolution the convention adopted an amendment clarifying Section 11. The former section read: "The representation of local unions entitled to affiliation in central labor unions shall be as follows; Local unions having 50 members or less, two delegates; 100 members or less, three delegates; 250 members or less, four delegates; 500 members or less, five delegates; one additional delegate to be allowed for each additional 500 members or majority fraction thereof."

The convention amended this section to read as follows: "The representatives of local unions entitled to affiliation in central labor unions shall be as follows: Local Unions having 50 members or less, two delegates; from 51 to 100 members, three delegates; 101 to 250 members, four delegates; 251 to 500 members, five delegates; one additional delegate to be allowed for each additional 500 members or majority fraction thereof."

CHARTERS TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in granting charters to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the American Newspaper Guild and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes.

CHILD WELFARE

The convention urged its affiliated organizations—international unions, state federations of labor, central labor unions and federal local unions—to support legislation to provide medical aid for children, adequate relief to overcome malnutrition, facilities for advanced education at public expense, and work opportunities and relief at union rates for unemployed youth. The resolution adopted pointed out that "the depression has through retrenchment in educat[illegible], loss of employment opportunities for youth, through result of malnutrition and neglect of medical care seriously undermined the health and well-being of American youth;" and stressed the fact that the youth of the nation "must be cared for to the end that they may carry on their responsibilities as citizens."

CIVIL LIBERTIES.

La Follette Committee's Investigation.—Commendation of the investigation regarding civil liberties violations being conducted at the direction of the United States Senate by a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, under the chairmanship of Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, was voted by the convention with the recommendation that the AFL Executive Council mobilize its efforts to secure an appropriation of not less than $200,000 for the use of the committee in order that the various ramifications of private detective agencies in labor disputes and in the field of civil rights generally may be thoroughly explored. The convention also commended the AFL Executive Council for its activities in supplying the La Follette committee with data secured through affiliated organizations in furtherance of the investigation.

The Resolutions Committee told the convention that according to reliable reports "private detective agencies and many of the corporations who are their employers are concealing or destroying their records" and "are working in collusion for the purpose of hiding their connections, and that they are being advised by some of the ablest attorneys procurable," adding: "Your committee is of the opinion that it would be a direct blow to good government and proper relationship between employer and organized employes if this present investigation is not carried on until the practices and activities of private detective agencies have been fully uncovered."

Violations.—The convention condemned various mob outbreaks in Tampa, Florida, in which it was alleged public meetings have been broken up by lawless elements and in one instance "certain members of the Socialist party and the Modern Democrats group" kidnapped and tortured, resulting in "actual murder in the case of Joseph Shoemaker," and demanded the severe punishment of those who are guilty of these crimes against civil rights and liberties.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Civil Service Commission.—The convention commended the United States Civil Service Commission for a statement made by its president, Harry B. Mitchell, regarding educational requirements for the public service which serve to discriminate against those whose qualifications for service are based on experience rather than formal academic training. The statement by Mr. Mitchell said: "Although fully appreciating the value of institutional training, the Commission endeavors not to discriminate against the individual who for reasons beyond his control has been denied the educational opportunities enjoyed by others."

Educational Qualifications.—The convention declared its opposition "to any requirement for entrance into the public service that would discriminate against any citizen with the necessary capabilities for the position sought by the requirement of institutional training," and commended the A. F. of L. Executive Council for its action in securing a declaration along this line from the U. S. Civil Service Commission and in having the educational requirements imposed by the United States Employment Service modified.

COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION.

The convention approved the action of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in suspending 10 unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. for their membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization. In its report on this subject to the convention recommending the approval of the action of the Executive Council, the Resolutions Committee summed up the matter as follows:

"The question to be considered is whether the Executive Council erred in the procedure it followed and in the decisions reached, either because of lack of authority or in reaching beyond its authority, or if its judgment though legal may have been in error. Then, too, there is involved the question of validity or invalidity of the course followed by the suspended unions in their agreement and combination to substitute, not by action of orderly and agreed to procedure, the will of a majority over that of unquestioned majority and in disregarding not only the rights and guarantees of other affiliated unions, but in violating the very principles and conditions upon which affiliation with the American Federation of Labor is predicated.

"Your committee has no hesitancy in stating that it finds that the officers of the American Federation of Labor and the Executive Council have acted in all instances not only within the authority delegated to them by constitutional provision, convention action and by custom and practice, but we find that this authority has been exercised by them with due discretion, and only to the extent made imperative by the unjustified and unwarrantable conduct and activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization and some of its associated unions."

After a thorough discussion the convention by a vote of 21,679 to 2,043 adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee, including the following three specific steps "to maintain both the integrity of the American Federation of Labor and preserve the unity of the labor movement":

"1. That this convention approve of all actions taken, decisions reached and rulings made by the Executive Council, as hereinbefore noted and referred to. We specifically recommend approval of the suspensions noted, and all actions and decisions and rules relating thereto. Lest there be fear that this recommendation may be interpreted to mean permanent suspension or complete severance, let it be understood that the suspension noted shall remain in effect until the present breach be healed and adjusted under such terms and conditions as the Executive Council may deem best in each particular case or in all cases combined.

"2. That the Special Committee appointed to discover a basis of settlement be continued with the full faith and confidence of the convention.

"3. In event that by action of the suspended unions they make the present relationship beyond bearing and create a situation that demands a more drastic procedure, that the Executive Council be authorized and empowered to call a special convention of the American Federation of Labor, at such time and place it may deem best, to take such further steps and actions as the emergency of the situation may then demand. We counsel this procedure and delegation of authority in the sincere desire to avoid any possible future and permanent severance unless such permanent separation comes as the choice of those who would permanently divide and bring warfare instead of peace and unity into the ranks of labor."

The following named organizations, holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization were affected by the decision of the convention: United Mine Workers of America; Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America; International Union, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; United Textile Workers of America; Federation of Flat Glass Workers; Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers; International Union United Automobile Workers of America; United Rubber Workers of America.

COMMUNISM.

The convention reaffirmed the vigorous declarations of previous A. F. of L. conventions condemning Communism, Fascism and Nazism for their destruction of human liberty and a democratic form of government. "Where Communism is in control," the convention said, "differences of political opinions, opposition to the administration, are not tolerated. Only recently outstanding leaders in the Bolshevik revolution who desired a change in the policies of their country, were charged with treason for doing what is every American's right. They were found guilty and executed as a warning to others, that there can be but one political party under a dictatorship, and opposition to it means death."

COMPANY UNIONS.

A resolution favoring legislation outlawing company unions but not presenting any specific legislative measure was referred by the convention to the AFL Executive Council "for their consideration and the most appropriate action which can be taken." The resolution charged that company unions are the creation of trusts and industrial mergers, that they are "used as a pretext to prevent the workers from organizing themselves into genuine unions of their own creation," that they "deny workers the right to protest in any shape or form against low wages, long hours, speed-up system and intensive exploitation," that the workers are reduced to a "condition of slavery" under the company union regime and that company unions are a "menace to organized labor."

CONSUMERS' COOPERATION.

The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council favoring Consumers' Cooperation and recommended that the Council have a careful study made of the developments of the cooperative movement "so that the value of effectiveness of the union label of affiliated unions shall be thoroughly safeguarded."

In its report on Consumers' Cooperation the Council said: "Labor welcomes the growth of this movement. We are well aware of the benefit it can bring to workers, not only by returning to them profits of the middleman and preventing many of the wastes in our system of distribution which add to the price paid by the worker, but also because consumer control of distribution will mean a guarantee of quality in the goods sold. In looking to the future growth of the movement, we feel that closer cooperation between organized labor and the consumers' cooperative movement is essential . . . In addition to retail stores, the credit union is a form of cooperative which has brought immense benefits to its members. There are today about 5,200 credit unions in the United States with 1,000,000 members and $100,000,000 in savings. These credit unions perform a twofold function by furnishing (1) a safe investment for shareholders, and (2) a means of borrowing money at an interest rate lower than through other mediums for this type of loan. The labor movement should work in close alliance with the movement for consumers' cooperatives and credit unions, so that cooperation may be fortified by strong labor organization and union members may be assured honest value when they spend their wages and may increase their purchasing power by eliminating waste and middlemen's profits."

CONSUMERS' UNION OF UNITED STATES, INC.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution approving certain objectives of the Consumers' Union of United States, Inc., and requesting the Council to appoint an advisory committee from the ranks of organized labor to confer with that organization from time to time so that it may best serve the working people of America.

The resolution said the Consumers' Union is "a non-profit and pro-labor membership corporation" established with the help of leaders of the organized labor movement to test goods and to report to its members on the quality and safety of all kinds of merchandise, and that the policy and practice of the Consumers' Union supplements the work of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department. "It is to the interest of organized labor," the resolution added, "that the work of Consumers' Union be broadened so that the union member can get more for his money and the non-union member can be informed on working conditions under which goods are made."

The convention held that inasmuch as many international unions and the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department are directly interested in the subject, the resolution should be referred to the AFL Executive Council "with the request that in connection with whatever action they take that full protection shall be given to all affiliated national and international unions in their union label promotion and their relations with their employers."

CONVENTION CITY, 1937.

Denver, Colorado, was selected as the city for the 1937 convention of the American Federation of Labor.

CONVENTION ENTERTAINMENT AND COURTESIES.

The convention extended a vote of thanks to the organized labor movement of Tampa, the citizens of Tampa, the officials of the City Government, the Tampa press and the representatives of the newspapers and press associations throughout the country "for their hospitality and for their part in a successful convention."

CONVENTIONS.

Presentation of Resolutions, Petitions, Etc.—The convention adopted new rules regarding the introduction of resolutions, petitions, memorials, and appeals for consideration by conventions of the American Federation of Labor. The subject came before the convention in a report by the A. F. of L. Executive Council pursuant to instructions of the 1935 convention.

Hitherto delegates have been permitted to introduce resolutions up to the end of the second day of the convention. According to the new rules all resolutions are required to be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer of the A. F. of L. 30 days before the opening of the convention with the exception that resolutions, etc., acted on by regular conventions held during this 30-day period shall be received up to five days prior to the opening date of the convention. Resolutions presented after the expiration of the 30 days period must be referred to the Executive Council, which will refer them to the convention with the understanding that their acceptance must receive unanimous consent.

With regard to proposals adopted by local and Federal labor unions directly affiliated with the A. F. of L., the rules require that they shall be referred to the Executive Council for consideration and disposition, with the provision that the Council shall advise the convention of its action.

Proposals presented by state federations of labor must have received the approval of the previous convention of the state federation.

Proposals coming from city central labor unions must have first received the approval of such unions.

As soon as the time for the presentation of resolutions, etc., expires provision is made for grouping them "as to nature of contents, character of subject embraced and committees to which they are to be referred," with the stipulation that "all such proposals in such allocated form shall be prepared for distribution at the opening session of the convention."

CONVICT LABOR.

Legislation. — Declaring that "the problem of protecting free labor from competition with that of convicts is a traditional one with organized labor," the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to continue its efforts to secure the enactment of legislation providing for the exclusive state-use system for convict-made goods, the enactment of the Hawes-Cooper Law by states which have not already placed it on their statute books, the enforcement of the Ashurst-Sumners Convict Labor Law enacted by the Seventy-fourth Congress and further cooperation with state federations of labor in states where the state-use system has not been adopted "urging them to draft and sponsor legislation prohibiting the production and sale of convict-made goods in competition with goods manufactured by free labor."

Twenty-two states, the convention was informed, have already enacted legislation banning convict-made goods from sales on the open market. The Hawes-Cooper Act, the Council told the convention, authorizes a state to prohibit the sale of prison-made goods from another state if the former state's laws provide that its own convict-made goods cannot be sold on the open market. The Ashurst-Sumners Act, supplementing the Hawes-Cooper Act, "provides that convict-made goods shipped in interstate commerce must bear a label upon the container on which is printed the name of the prison where the articles were produced and to whom it is consigned," the object of the law being "to prohibit carriers from accepting prison-made products to be delivered in the twenty-two states that have adopted the state-use system."

COUNCIL FOR INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

The convention endorsed the Council for Industrial Progress, whose chairman is Major George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union of North America, and Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation, and recommended continued cooperation by the American Federation of Labor with the Council. The report of the Resolutions Committee on this subject, which the convention adopted, described the Council for Industrial Progress as the "national conference of representatives of employers and of labor, called under the direction of the Coordinator," and said the first conference of the Council, convened in March, 1936, "in an effort to bring management and labor together for the joint study of their problems and the joint formulation of programs and policies, indicated a large measure of practical usefulness." The resolution also said "the reports made and accepted by the conference reflect in a large measure the aims and the policy of the American Federation of Labor."

CREDIT UNIONS.

Labor Movement and Credit Unions.—The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council on consumers' cooperation, which said: "In addition to retail stores the credit union is a form of cooperative which has brought immense benefit to its members. There are today about 5,200 credit unions in the United States with 1,000,000 members and $100,000,000 in savings. These credit unions perform a two-fold function by furnishing (1) a safe investment for stockholders, and (2) a means of borrowing money at an interest rate much lower than through other mediums for this type of loan. The labor movement should work in closer alliance with the movement for consumers' cooperatives and credit unions, so that cooperation may be fortified by strong labor organizations and union members may be assured honest value when they spend their wages and may increase their purchasing power by the elimination of middlemen's profits."

Policies.—H. W. Culbreth, representing the Credit Union Section of the Farm Credit Administration, delivered an address to the convention in explanation of credit union principles and policies whereby small personal loans are made to members at reasonable interest charges. The convention referred Mr. Culbreth's address to the AFL Executive Council with instructions "to make a careful study and prepare a statement on the credit union and its policies, and that this information be sent out to the various organizations affiliated, instructing these organizations on the advisability and the possibility of establishing credit unions for the protection of the workers throughout the country."

CUBA.

Political Conditions.—The convention concurred with a resolution which declared "that the American Federation of Labor, speaking for the organized workers of the United States, denounces and condemns in the strongest terms the Batista dictatorship, with its fearful and indescribable tortures of labor men and others, with its assassinations and its punishment by exile, and with its hideous espionage system, and that we record this protest with President Gomez and with the State Department at Washington."

The convention also extended its sympathy and admiration to the Cuban workers, for their "heroic conduct under the dictatorship," pledged its support to them "until freedom is finally achieved," and extended "fraternal greetings to the Cuban workers through the President of the now disbanded Cuban Federation of Labor, Brother Cesar Vilar, who is in exile and who prior to his exile was imprisoned for eleven months because of his service as a leader of the Cuban workers."

The convention was informed that under the dictatorship set up by Col. Fulgencio Batista, in opposition to the government of President Miguel Mariano Gomez, "no labor union can exist in Cuba and perform the normal and proper functions of a union, while labor men are thrown into prison and are tortured and driven insane by the tortures they must watch, and while there are now more political prisoners than there were before the adoption of the emasculated amnesty law adopted in the first months of the Gomez administration."

D

DAVIS, JEROME.

Dismissal From Yale University Faculty.—The convention protested "the refusal of the Yale Corporation to ratify the recommendation of the Board of Permanent Officers of the Yale Divinity School Faculty and calls upon it to reconsider its action and re-appoint Professor Davis as recommended by the Divinity School Faculty." The resolution which the convention adopted directed attention to the fact that Professor Davis was elected president of the American Federation of Teachers as of June 30, 1937, and stated that the "disciplinary action" was taken against him by the Yale Corporation "because of his opinions, writings, affiliations, and activities" on social and economic matters. The resolution cited his "helping organized labor in New Haven in educational work and other activities," and his "criticism of the Insull utility of the mid-west."

DEMOCRACY.

In a resolution condemning dictatorships and their teachings as destructive of liberty and declaring the fealty of the American Federation of Labor "to the democratic principles upon which our government is founded and to the Government of the United States," the convention called "to the attention of wage earners and other citizens of the United States that the liberties and recognized rights of the common citizens in this and other nations where democratic forms of government maintained were won upon a thousand battlefields and by the martyrdom of those who dared to preach the doctrine of equal rights and liberties for all the people."

In addition, the convention declared that "there is no substitute for liberty," and expressed the belief that "a few of these rights, liberties and guarantees, won after a thousand years of effort, and which are lost under dictator forms of government, should be called to the attention of every American citizen. They are: The right of the people to select representatives to enact and administer the laws under which they shall live, thereby making government rest upon the consent of the governed; the separation of church and state and the right of all citizens to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences; the right of petition; the right of trial by jury; the right of habeas corpus; the right of free speech and a free press; the right of public assemblage; the right to be secure in one's papers and person from unlawful seizure; the right to belong to lawful organizations promotive of the welfare of the individuals composing them; the right of the free movement of a citizen from one locality to another."

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Federal Labor Agencies.—Asserting that the U. S. Department of Labor "was created to be the agency through which Labor should be fittingly and adequately represented and whose guiding fundamental precepts and practices should be based upon Labor's decisions as to what constitutes its best interests," the convention declared that "in the re-organization of governmental functions, now under consideration, those agencies which administer rights of Labor or matters which primarily concern Labor welfare should be situated in the Department of Labor."

The Department of Labor, the convention added, "is the agency through which Labor is given voice and representation in those matters with which the President and his Cabinet must deal. It is the duty and the privilege of the organized labor movement to recommend policies for Labor issues and to insist that the most constructive methods be adopted."

Information Service. — Emphasizing the report by the AFL Executive Council that for the fiscal year 1936 Congress had appropriated $82,978,114 for the Department of Agriculture, $34,851,458 for the Department of Commerce and only $15,741,410 for the Department of Labor, and that because of its limited appropriation "the information now supplied on wages and hours of work" by the Labor Department "is so inadequate that trade unions cannot find the statistical data they need for wage negotiations," the convention declared:

"It is apparent by all who would avail themselves of the service of the United States Department of Labor that it is woefully inadequate and that while the Department is charged with the responsibility of looking after the interests of the great masses of people of this country the appropriation by comparison with that set aside for the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture, is all out of proportion with the responsibility of the Department.

"We therefore urge that the Executive Council demand of the incoming Congress that the Department of Labor be given a budget allowance comparable with that of the other two Departments mentioned and that the services of the Department be broadened for the purpose of better protecting the interests of those the Department was created to serve."

Labor Standards Division.—Emphasizing the importance to working men and women of the service performed by the Division of Labor Standards, the convention urged Congress to establish the division "as a permanent bureau in the Department of Labor with adequate funds to carry on its activities in behalf of the workers of the country."

The resolution in which the convention concurred pointed out that the Federal Government has for many years aided in the establishment of standards for industrial materials and products and assisted farmers in increasing the quantity and quality of their crops, but that the U. S. Department of Labor through the Division of Labor Standards "has only recently added to its services to Labor the functions of assisting in the formulation of practical Labor standards and of providing facilities for the drafting of Labor legislation and safety codes and non-administrative practices," which facilities "are being widely used by state federations of labor and local labor groups."

Secretary of Labor.—The convention concurred in a resolution recommending that Congress designate the Secretary of Labor a member of every federal commission appointed to participate in national and international expositions. The resolution pointed out that an "increasingly large proportion of the citizens of the country whom these expositions are to reach are wage earners in industry," that "these expositions offer an exceptional opportunity for disseminating information on labor problems and labor standards," and that membership of the Secretary of Labor on these commissions would be helpful in protecting labor's interests in the exhibits.

Women's Bureau. — The convention commended the work of the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor and called upon its affiliated organizations to support the Bureau "by any and every means within their power."

The resolution adopted by the convention specifically pointed out that the Women's Bureau was established by Congress "as a fact-finding agency to study the problems and working conditions of women wage earners and to decide by research and investigation the best standards for their employment." The resolution said "the results of these investigations have been of inestimable value in the formulation of standards and employment policies, and have contributed largely to the welfare of the millions of woman workers in the United States," adding: "The constantly changing industrial conditions are greatly affecting the employment of women and are emphasizing the necessity for this valuable agency of the Government."

DICTATORSHIP.

Dictatorship typified by Fascism, Nazism and Communism was condemned by the convention for its destruction of a democratic form of government and human liberty. "The existence of Communism, Fascism and Nazism, the existence of dictatorship in any form," the convention said, "is a definite threat to human liberty and to peace, for its aim is the subjugation by force and bloodshed of all those within a nation who may differ."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Suffrage. — Holding that "the un-American conditions prevailing in the District of Columbia, whereby the residents are denied all participation in their Government, both local and national, is a condition of tyranny under which no American should be required to live," the convention re-affirmed its endorsement of a constitutional amendment "which will cure this anomaly and give the residents of the District of Columbia recognition as national Americans and voting participants in the councils of the nation."

To hasten the achievement of this purpose the convention declared the time has arrived when the Congress of the United States should immediately pass and submit to the states for ratification the proposed amendment to the Constitution "empowering Congress to grant to the residents of the District of Columbia voting representation in the Senate and House of Representatives, the vote for President and Vice President, and the same rights before the courts of the United States, as citizens, as possessed by the citizens of a state."

The convention directed its officers and proper committees "to petition Congress and the state legislatures and to take such other aggressive and continuous action as will aid in the early emancipation of a worthy people from the tyrannical rule under which they now live."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Teachers' Salary Act.—The efforts of the Central Labor Union of the District of Columbia in securing the enactment by Congress of the law raising the salary schedule of trade or vocational schools in the District from the elementary school level to the rank of junior high schools and authorizing the Board of Education "to establish occupational schools on the elementary school level for pupils not prepared to pursue vocational courses in the trade or vocational schools, and also to carry on trade or vocational courses on the senior high school level or in senior high schools," were commended by the convention.

Workmen's Compensation Law.—The convention instructed its officers and legislative committee "to give to the Washington Central Labor Union its fullest cooperation" in having enacted the new workmen's compensation law for the District of Columbia, sponsored by that central body. The convention was informed that the present District of Columbia workmen's compensation law does not "give proper protection to the workers in private industry," and that this deficiency will be corrected by the new law sponsored by the Washington Central Labor Union.

E

EDUCATION.

Government Appropriations. — The work of the AFL Executive Council in favoring a Federal appropriation of $100,000,000 "to assist the states and territories in providing more effective programs of public education" was approved by the convention which also

(Continued on Page 3)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 2)

endorsed the recommendation of the Council that every support possible be given bills for the appropriation of the $100,000,000 during the 1937 session of Congress.

The Council in the report which the convention adopted, pointed out that many investigations "show the alarming number of illiterates in our country," that according to reliable data over 100,000 schools attended by "over 3,000,000 children were forced into a practical state of bankruptcy" after the depression, that school terms have been shortened to an average of "not more than six months per year," and that "school districts have increased their indebtedness by $1,000,000,000 in order to keep going and provide for increased enrollments."

EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Fire Fighters.—Asserting that many fire fighters throughout the United States and Canada are still working under the "archaic platoon system requiring a twelve-hour day," despite the fact that "the fire fighting profession has, the same as modern industry, adopted speed-up methods, labor saving apparatus and appliances, which have steadily reduced the man power," the convention endorsed "the program of the International Association of Fire Fighters in its endeavor to secure shorter working hours for all fire fighters in the United States and Canada," declared that "this program of shorter working hours is in conformity with the ideals of organized labor," and urged every member local of the American Federation of Labor "to give its wholehearted support to the movement for an eight-hour day with one day off in seven for all fire fighters in the United States and Canada."

In addition, the convention instructed state federations of labor and the central trades and labor councils "to actively assist the International Association of Fire Fighters in their states and cities when a campaign is made for the eight-hour day for fire fighters," and called upon all trade unionists "to urge the adoption of such eight-hour day for fire fighters as in keeping with labor's ideals and as a means of reducing the present number of unemployed."

Hospital Employes.—The convention concurred with a resolution endorsing the campaign initiated by the Association of Hospital and Medical Professionals No. 20094, New York, N. Y., for the eight-hour day movement in all hospitals in the United States, recommended that the AFL Executive Council, the state federations of labor and central labor bodies "aid in the organization of nurses throughout the country," and urged all public officials who have received the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor "to press for legislation limiting the hours of hospital employes to a maximum of eight hours per day in municipal, state and federal institutions." The resolution pointed out that "thousands of nurses, laboratory technicians and other hospital professionals unorganized throughout the country are still working twelve hours a day at very low wages."

ELECTRICAL AND RADIO INDUSTRY EMPLOYES.

Industrial Union Charter.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution asking that the AFL Executive Council issue "an industrial charter for the electrical and radio industry to be given to the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America" (an organization dual to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America).

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

Unfair Practices.—Acting on information from the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America that many cities and small towns "are infested with sharks which call themselves employment agencies," which in reality are "nothing more than strikebreaking units, supplying 'scabs' to employers engaged in fighting organized labor," the convention recommended "federal legislation to punish employment agencies indulging in the aforementioned practices" and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to cooperate vigorously with state federations for the purpose of inaugurating rigid state regulation of employment agencies."

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Annual Report. — The convention commended "the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for their work in behalf of the workers of this country during the past year." The convention urged all members of organized labor to carefully study the comprehensive report of the Council in order that they may more fully appreciate the difficult problems the Council have considered and acted upon during the past year. A study of the report, the convention said, shows "that the interest of organized labor has been safeguarded and safely guided through the past year in a most intelligent and satisfactory manner."

Authority to Suspend or Penalize National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor.—The convention confirmed the authority of the AFL Executive Council to penalize or suspend national and international unions for violation of the American Federation of Labor constitution, laws and certificate of affiliation obligations, or orders of the Council.

The rule adopted by the convention provides that the Council shall hold appropriate hearings on complaints covering these offenses, that the Council shall determine in executive session what step shall be taken, and that if a "union is held guilty of having breached its contractual obligations in its charter from the American Federation of Labor or laws of the American Federation of Labor or of orders of its Executive Council, issued thereunder and in pursuance thereof. In the event the Executive Council finds said union guilty, the Executive Council may take any of the following steps: (a) Forgive said breach with or without conditions to be fulfilled by said union; (b) suspend said union from the American Federation of Labor and from enjoying the benefits from said membership for a definite or for an indefinate time; (c) penalize such union for said breach in any other way; or (d) if the actions of said union have been so serious that all relations between it and the American Federation of Labor should be severed, revoke its charter, but only upon instructions from or approved by a convention of the American Federation of Labor passed by a two-thirds vote ordering or approving the revocation of said charter."

With regard to state federations of labor chartered by the American Federation of Labor the convention said they "shall adapt their policies—legislative, political, civic and organizational—to the policies adopted by the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, and if any state federation of labor purposely deviates from the policies of the American Federation of Labor, and if any state federation of labor violates any of the laws or provisions of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor or any order of its Executive Council pursuant thereto, such state federation of labor shall be dealt with by the Executive Council in the manner provided for in Rule I, above for dealing with national and international unions."

Changes.—The convention concurred in the action of the AFL Executive Council in accepting the resignations of John L. Lewis, David Dubinsky and William L. Hutcheson as vice presidents of the American Federation of Labor and in appointing Felix H. Knight, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen; George E. Browne, president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada, and Edward Flore, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America, to fill the vacancies.

Election.—The convention elected, by unanimous votes, the following officers of the American Federation of Labor for the year beginning January 1, 1937: President, William Green (miner); first vice president, Frank Duffy (carpenter); second vice president, T. A. Rickert (garment worker); third vice president, Matthew Woll (photo-engraver); fourth vice president, John Coefield (plumber); fifth vice president, Arthur O. Wharton (machinist); sixth vice president, Joseph N. Weber (musician); seventh vice president, G. M. Bugniazet (electrical worker); eighth vice president, George M. Harrison (railway clerk); ninth vice president, Daniel J. Tobin (teamster); tenth vice president, Harry C. Bates (bricklayer); eleventh vice president, Edward J. Gainor (letter carrier); twelfth vice president, W. D. Mahon (street and electric railway carman); thirteenth vice president, Felix H. Knight (railway carman); fourteenth vice president, George E. Browne (theatrical stage employes); fifteenth vice president, Edward Flore (hotel and restaurant employes); secretary-treasurer, Frank Morrison (printer).

Suspension of National or International Unions.—The convention nonconcurred with four resolutions concerning the authority of the AFL Executive Council to suspend national or international unions. One resolution provided that the suspension order "shall not take effect until approved by a two-thirds majority of the delegates assembled at a regular convention." Another resolution provided that "the suspension of an affiliated national or international union, by order of the Executive Council, shall not deprive such affiliated union of the right to representation by delegates at any convention of the American Federation of Labor until the order of the suspension shall have received the approval of a two-thirds majority of the delegates assembled at a regular convention."

F

FARM MORTGAGES.

Refinancing.—In considering a resolution which declared that "the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor endorsed the Frazier-Lemke Bill to refinance farm mortgages," and that "the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor issued a statement just as Congress was about to vote on this farm measure declaring labor's opposition, which carried considerable weight in causing its defeat," the convention resolved that the "American Federation of Labor confer with the economic farm organizations on similar legislation at the coming session of Congress with the object in view of bringing about the much needed cooperation of these two groups of workers, organized labor and organized agriculture."

FASCISM.

The convention reaffirmed the strong declarations of previous A. F. of L. conventions condemning Fascism, Communism and Nazism for their destruction of human liberty and a democratic form of government. "Under Fascism, Nazism and Communism political differences of opinion are held to be treason," the convention declared. "The world has witnessed the political assassination and the so-called judicial verdicts by which those in opposition are done away with. The examples are recent and impressive."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS.

Employment of Prisoners on Government Construction Work.—Acting on information that the Federal Bureau of Prisons "is constructing new buildings with prison labor and is requesting building trades mechanics to work with prison labor and asking them to teach prisoners the trade," the convention strongly protested against this policy, urged that the "present law be repealed or amended so that all construction work be let by contract or performed by free labor," and demanded that Congress enact legislation correcting "these vicious practices."

FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON APPRENTICE TRAINING.

"One of the objectives of the American Federation of Labor," the convention declared, "has been to develop indentured apprenticeship in the organized trades based on the assumption that fair wage levels and working conditions can be maintained only by preventing the over supply of untrained mechanics and the development of a reasonable supply of skilled mechanics."

Pointing out that this program is based on sound American policies and that it has been applied by the Federal Committee on Apprentice Training "set up by the United States Government to foster and promote indentured apprenticeship in the skilled trades throughout the country," the convention endorsed the policy and program of the Federal Committee on Apprentice Training, recommended that the program be expanded, urged the Congress of the United States to appropriate sufficient funds to the U. S. Labor Department to carry on the activities of the Federal Committee, and recommended that state federations of labor "take an active interest in the passage of state apprentice laws to safeguard the standards of apprentice training laid down in the Federal program."

FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Asserting that "the type of exploitation represented by abuses in the food, drug and cosmetic industries is particularly burdensome to American labor," that the existing Federal statute does not give adequate protection against such abuses, and that "protecting the consumer's health and pocketbook is of special importance to the millions of workers whose purchasing power is depended upon to furnish the profits to industries producing dangerous and fraudulent products," the convention resolved "that the American Federation of Labor devote every effort to secure the early enactment of a new food, drug and cosmetic act, provided that such legislation in no way restricts the Government's power to seize and remove from the market any deceptive or dangerous product," with the further provision that the legislation "does not hamper the adjudication of such seizures by requiring their trial in jurisdictions prejudicial to the consumer's interest," and that "such legislation grant to the Department of Agriculture full punitive power to regulate food, drug and cosmetic advertising." The convention also resolved that "labor's representative in Congress" be instructed to support legislation in harmony with these principles.

FEDERAL HOUSING ACT.

Puerto Rican Agency.—The convention concurred with a resolution instructing the President of the American Federation of Labor to ask the authorities in charge of the administration of the Federal Housing Act to establish an agency in Puerto Rico in order that Puerto Ricans might enjoy the full benefits of the measure. The resolution said that although Puerto Rico is included in the area authorized to be served by the Federal Housing Act, there is no local office in the Island which could adequately administer the law, and that consequently its beneficial effects have not been felt in Puerto Rico.

FEDERAL LABOR UNIONS.

Charters.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution amending the provisions of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor regarding the issuance of charters to federal labor unions. Section 11 of Article IX of the Constitution provides that "no charters shall be granted by the American Federation of Labor to any national, international, trade, or federal labor union without a positive and clear definition of the trade jurisdiction claimed by the applicant, and the charter shall not be granted if the jurisdiction claimed is a trespass on the jurisdiction of existing affiliated unions, without the written consent of such unions." The amendment proposed that these lines be eliminated up to the words "consent of such unions," and that the following lines be substituted therefor: "Charters may be granted by the American Federation of Labor to any national, international, trade or federal labor union making a positive and clear definition of trade jurisdiction claimed by the applicant."

Section 2 of Article XIV of the A. F. of L. Constitution provides that "the Executive Council is authorized and empowered to charter local trade unions and federal labor unions, to determine their respective jurisdictions not in conflict with national and international unions, to determine the minimum number of members required, qualifications for membership and to make rules and regulations relating to their conduct, activities and affairs from time to time and as in its judgment is warranted or deemed advisable." The proposed amendment asked that the words "not in conflict with national and international unions" be eliminated from this section.

Dues.—The convention non-concurred with a number of resolutions calling for an amendment to the constitution of the American Federation of Labor providing for a reduction of the dues paid by federal labor unions. The constitution fixes the dues at "thirty-five cents per member per month, twelve and one-half cents of which must be set aside to be used only in the case of strike or lockout unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Council."

Representation in A. F. of L. Conventions.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution asking that the laws of the American Federation of Labor be amended to provide that "locals not affiliated with central labor unions because there are no central labor unions in their community" shall be entitled to representation in the American Federation of Labor conventions. The convention pointed out that the evident intent of the resolution was to provide delegate representation to federal labor unions and that this is already provided for in the A. F. of L. Constitution.

FEDERAL LICENSING OF CORPORATIONS.

O'Mahoney Bill.—The convention requested the AFL Executive Council to have incorporated in the Federal Licensing Bill sponsored by Senator O'Mahoney or any other bill for the federal licensing of corporations certain provision included in the resolutions favoring this policy adopted by the 1931 and 1932 conventions of the A. F. of L.

The two resolutions asserted that "the great bulk of our manufacturing and our commerce is carried on by corporations, many of whom, several years ago, graduated from million to billion-dollar institutions," that these corporations "have been the most active and aggressive factors in the program to prevent any organization among wage earners," and that "the individual's opportunities of earning a living and the standard of living he can enjoy in many instances are as fully dominated by the industrial policies applied by the corporations as they are by the law of the land."

Expressing the conviction that the most practical and effective method of establishing necessary control and regulation over corporations "is through the enactment of a law which provides that all individuals, partnerships and corporations, doing an interstate business must secure a Federal license, a license which would be revoked whenever the licensee violates the provisions of his license," the resolutions requested the AFL Executive Council "to have a thorough study made of the problems involved and prepare a bill for introduction in the Congress of the United States."

FEDERATION OF FLAT GLASS WORKERS.

Transgression of Jurisdiction. — The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council on the transgression of jurisdiction by the Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America. The Council reported that the Federation "has attempted to invade the jurisdiction of other international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and in addition has prevailed upon a federal labor union composed of chemical workers to surrender its federal charter and to accept membership in the Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America. This action on the part of the Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America is a violation of the jurisdiction granted this organization by the American Federation of Labor."

The Council declared that in pursuance of this policy of transgressing the jurisdiction of other organizations the Federation of Flat Glass Workers attempted to impose its jurisdiction upon workers coming under the jurisdiction of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada and imposed its jurisdiction on the members of Chemical Workers Federal Labor Union No. 19019 at Barberton, Ohio, who were persuaded to give up their membership in the Federal Labor Union and accept membership in the Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America.

These activities were pursued by President McCabe of the Flat Glass Workers Federation, the Council said, despite the fact that he was repeatedly advised that the jurisdiction of his organization "did not under any circumstances cover chemical workers who were members of this federal labor union." The Council declared that "this is a flagrant case of disregard of the jurisdictional authority both of the American Federation of Labor and of international unions affiliated with it."

FEDERAL SOCIAL RESEARCH

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring the establishment by the Federal Government of a "permanent national research program" to cover "many types of research of permanent social value including social research, such as: statistics on unemployment, relationship of income to disease, study of morbidity and mortality, child labor, women in industry, industrial hazards; and educational research, such as: literacy, study of school facilities; vocational training of the handicapped, etc.; physical research, such as: conservation of natural resources, flood control, meteorological and chemical research; and biological research, such as: medical control of insect pests, etc."

The resolution said research of these types is not being carried on by private industry because it is not immediately profitable and that the Federal Government "is the only agency that can establish and support an adequate national research program of general social value."

FEDERAL WORK RELIEF PROGRAM.

Union Wage Scales.—The convention took definite action to secure the application of trade union wage scales to public works projects financed by the Federal Government to relieve unemployment and stimulate economic recovery by approving "a definite and nation-wide campaign by the American Federation of Labor to organize workers on these projects into unions of their own, and a definite legislative program aimed at the attachment to all appropriations for government public works projects stipulations of the payment of union wages on those projects." The AFL Executive Council was instructed to set up the apparatus necessary to the execution of such a campaign and program.

The resolution concurred in by the convention said that the greatest failure from the standpoint of organized labor in the establishment and administration of federal work relief projects in the last three and one half years "has been the failure of the Government to establish and guarantee union wage levels on such projects," and warned that "wage levels throughout the country for at least the next four years will be to a very great extent determined by the wage levels maintained on the government projects."

FILIPINO EXODUS.

The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council "exercise further effort for legislation returning to their native land Filipinos now in the United States" and that legislation extending the time for achieving this objective be extended beyond December 1, 1937, if necessary. The original law on this subject, enacted by Congress in 1935, providing for the transportation at federal expense to the Philippine Islands all natives of that country who desire to return to their homeland, was supported by the American Federation of Labor. It was estimated that out of 45,208 Filipinos in the United States, 30,000 would return home.

FINGERPRINTING.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution condemning the fingerprinting of workers arrested in industrial disputes, as well as "any form of fingerprinting of workers for civil reasons," and instructing the Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor to introduce national legislation prohibiting this practice. The resolution said that although "it has been the custom in the United States of America to fingerprint only felons," nevertheless "certain magistrates have stretched their own powers by having pickets charged with disorderly conduct fingerprinted," and that, in addition, "many employers have instituted a drive to privately fingerprint all workers for the purpose of setting up a vicious strikebreaking blacklist."

FIRE FIGHTERS.

Pensions.—The convention favored a system of pensions for fire fighters financed by state taxes levied on premiums paid to fire insurance companies and on all corporations, chain stores and self insurers not incorporated in the state, and instructed affiliated state federations of labor and central labor councils "to assist the International Association of Fire Fighters and its affiliated locals in their efforts to secure the passage of such legislation." The convention was informed that the proposed tax amounting to two per cent would be on a premium covering the amount of fire insurance that would normally be carried on the insured property.

FISCHER, JACOB.

The convention concurred in the tribute paid by the AFL Executive Council to Jacob Fischer, former vice president of the American Federation of Labor, who died in Indianapolis on August 25, 1936. He served as a vice president of the A. F. of L. from 1918 until he resigned on May 22, 1929. "As a former official of his organization, the Barbers International Union, and as vice president of the American Federation of Labor, he was a loyal and true trade unionist," the Council said, adding: "It is with a sense of deep regret that we make this official record of his passing."

FOOD INDUSTRY EMPLOYES DEPARTMENT.

The convention concurred in the action of the AFL Executive Council in postponing consideration of the advisability of the formation of a Department of Food Industry Employes in the American Federation of Labor "until the organizations whose interests would be actively involved by the creation of such a department indicate a change of sentiment."

The Council told the convention that in accordance with a resolution adopted by the 1935 convention calling for a conference of the representatives of the unions who would be interested in the formation of a Department of Food Industry Employes, correspondence with the organizations whose interest would be affected by the creation of such a department "definitely indicated that these organizations, with the exception of one or two, were either opposed to the formation of such a department or were not interested therein."

FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

British Trades Union Congress.—The convention elected William C. Birthright, International Secretary of the Journeymen Barbers International Union, and James J. Ryan, first vice president of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers, as fraternal delegates of the American Federation of Labor to the 1937 session of the British Trades Union Congress.

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.—The convention elected R. A. Henning of the International Association of Machinists as fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor to the 1937 session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

FRAUDULENT ADVERTISING PUBLICATIONS.

In an effort to prevent the fraudulent practice of certain irresponsible and unauthorized persons going into the jurisdictions of central bodies and soliciting advertisements and contributions for alleged labor papers, year books, souvenir books, and other periodicals, for the purpose of extracting money from unsuspecting business firms, the convention instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to "use their best efforts to protect the central bodies from the damage now being done by those responsible for the publication of such unauthorized newspapers, year books, annuals and other publications," urged central labor bodies to do everything possible to stamp out these activities, and recommended that local unions and central bodies "support to the best of their ability the local labor press, provided the same has the approval of the central body."

FREE PRESS.

The position of American labor on freedom of the press came before the convention in a number of resolutions condemning William Randolph Hearst and his publications for their alleged anti-labor and pro-fascist policies. Some of the resolutions demanded a boycott of the Hearst publications. The convention non-concurred with all of the resolutions and adopted the following report of the Resolutions Committee:

"The American Federation of Labor, from the beginning, has been an active champion of freedom of the press, the right of a newspaper to publish its views without censorship. Free institutions must vanish the moment that freedom of the press is restricted or denied.

"The policy of a newspaper relative to labor and other national and international questions, involves a newspaper's right to express its owner's opinion. When a newspaper expresses views and advocates policies which meet with public displeasure, this may affect its circulation, for the right to freedom of the press is no greater than the right of citizens to read or purchase.

"Sturdily defending the freedom of the press, the American Federation of Labor has never advocated the boycotting of even those publications avowedly anti-union who continually attack the American Federation of Labor and its policies, and the personal motives and character of trade union officials. Their right to attack is only equal to our right to attack in return, and to freely criticize through our publications.

"Your committee is of the opinion that this policy of our trade union movement should not be changed.

"Regardless of what personal views Mr. Wm. Randolph Hearst may hold relative to our trade union movement, the outstanding fact is his long time policy relative to his relations with trade unions. For many years he has entered into agreements covering all the workmen in his employ who were members of the Typographical Union; the Printing Pressmen's Union; the Photo Engravers' Union; the Teamsters' Union; Stereotypers' Union; the Bookbinders', and a number of others. Those agreements have contained acceptable provisions covering the terms of employment and conditions of labor."

FUTURE CRAFTSMEN OF AMERICA.

Acting on information that the promotors of "The Future Craftsmen of America" called a convention "at which anti-labor employers furnished the entertainment," and that "the assertion has been circulated that the organization has the approval of labor, when, in fact, labor, notably in Wisconsin, has protested the set-up as tentatively announced," the convention requested the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to cause a thorough study to be made of the plan of organizing the prospective craftsmen of this nation and take measures, if in their judgment it seems necessary, to prevent our boys from entering avenues which may prove hazardous to their future without proper safeguards of their economic welfare."

The resolution which the convention considered said it was proposed that "The Future Craftsmen of America" would be composed of the following three affiliated organizations: Apprentice Craftsmen of America for the apprentice group, Junior Craftsmen of America for the all-day trade group, and Amateur Craftsmen of America for the industrial art group. The convention said "the organized labor movement throughout all history, up to the advent of the vocational school, has been the sole sponsor of craftsman development and continues to be the agency most deeply concerned in industrial training."

G

GALLUP (NEW MEXICO) MINERS.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council "for investigation and such action as is warranted" a resolution condemning the "savage injustice" imposed upon three unemployed coal miners (Juan Ochoa, Manuel Avita and Lendro Velarde) who "have been unjustly convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to terms of 45 to 60 years in prison for strike activity in New Mexico as part of the vengeance of coal companies against them for their loyalty to the labor movement and as a part of the New Mexico coal companies' efforts to destroy trade unionism." The resolution also urged that Governor Clyde Tingley of New Mexico be requested to pardon the three miners.

GAS AND BY-PRODUCT COKE WORKERS.

Contribution Made by the American Federation of Labor to Organizing Work.—The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council citing the work performed by the American Federation of Labor in organizing the Gas and By-Product Coke Workers. Following the organization of federal labor unions of these workers in a number of cities at a cost of approximately $11,000, the A. F. of L. created the National Council of Gas and By-Product Coke Workers so that the efforts of the members of these federal labor unions could be coordinated in order to establish uniform rates of pay and improve conditions of employment.

"On August 16, 1936," the Council reported, "a number of these federal labor unions composed of gas and by-product coke workers left the American Federation of Labor and became affiliated with the International Union United Mine Workers of America. No application for an extension of jurisdiction by the United Mine Workers over these gas and by-product coke workers was made to the Executive Council. Consequently, no grant of jurisdiction was made by the Executive Council to the United Mine Workers over these gas and by-product coke workers located in the cities and towns named."

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD UTILITIES CORPORATION.

Anti-Union Policy.—Acting on information from the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department that the General Household Utilities Corporation, manufacturers of Grunow refrigerators and radios, forced a strike of all machinists and die and tool makers employed by the corporation on May 6, 1936, by refusing to meet with the men for the purpose of establishing contractual relations, the convention instructed the President and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor "to lend every possible assistance to the employes of the General Household Utilities Corporation in their efforts to secure recognition of the right to organize and representation through the legitimate organized labor movement, and in the event of failure to do so, to use the avenues of publicity available to the American Federation of Labor by advising the members of the affiliated organizations of the attitude of this corporation and its president, Wm. Grunow, as their judgment may deem it advisable."

GIBSON, GEORGE.

Fraternal Delegate from British Trades Union Congress.—The convention presented George Gibson, general secretary of the Mental and Institutional Workers' Union, of Great Britain, and one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, with an engraved watch, chain and knife as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. The convention also presented Mrs. Gibson with an engraved platinum watch set with diamonds.

GOMPERS MEMORIAL FUND.

Inasmuch as the immediate purpose of the Gompers Memorial Fund has been accomplished and further expenses on account of the Memorial will occur only occasionally the convention directed that the balance in that fund, $15,835.25, be transferred to the general fund of the American Federation of Labor and that further expenses for repair of the monument be paid out of the general fund.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES.

Accidents.—In connection with the report by the AFL Executive Council that many deaths were occurring among workmen on public works owing to the fact that states do not have jurisdiction to enforce their workmen's compensation, safety and insurance laws on projects belonging to the United States, and that Federal legislation is necessary to protect the workers on these projects, the convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council "continue to urge and assist state federations in the enactment of the most advanced safety legislation," and that the Council "be instructed to have introduced and enacted federal legislation which will establish uniform and adequate safety laws under the national Government."

Classification Act of 1923.—The convention endorsed a resolution removing workmen in the Custodial Service from the Classification Act of 1923, "have them placed under a schedule of wages not less than that prevailing in the Navy Yard's service, and to confer upon them the benefits of the 40-hour week without reduction in weekly earnings." The convention also endorsed the principles of the Ramspeck Bill H. R. 7878, introduced on May 3, 1935, and instructed the incoming officers of the A. F. of L. to secure its enactment. The Executive Council was also instructed to assist the employes concerned in securing the union rates of the various trades practiced by them.

The resolution pointed out that the Classification Act, as amended embraces certain trades and other workmen, particularly in the Custodial Service, whose wages have not kept pace with those employes coming under the "wage board system."

Displacement of Permanent Employes by Emergency Workers.—Stating that "maintenance and repair work is being performed by emergency employes on United States Government property, endangering the continued employment of permanent employes," the convention resolved that the American Federation of Labor should "continue its efforts to prevent the displacement of permanent employes by emergency workers." The convention expressed its opposition to any change in the "status or abrogation of the Civil Service rights of civilian employes, classified or unclassified, and known as permanent employes."

Federal Legislation.—The convention expressed its gratification for the legislation improving the economic conditions of the employes of the Federal Government which the AFL Executive Council reported had been enacted during the last session of Congress and instructed the Executive Council "to continue to aid and support all objectives of Government workers which are in accord with the program and the principles of organized labor." According to the Executive Council's report these measures extend a 40-hour week to employes in the mail equipment shops with no reduction in pay; provide that there shall be in the postal service not more than one classified substitute to six regular employes or fraction thereof, except in offices having fewer than six employes there may be one substitute carrier as well as one substitute in the motor vehicle service; give vacations to Government employes with the same exceptions as noted in the sick leave law, which entitles these employes to 26 days annual leave each calendar year, exclusive of Sundays and holidays; provide sick leave with pay, regardless of tenure, for all civilian officers in the employ of the United States, wherever stationed by the Government, or in the District of Columbia, other than teachers and librarians of the public schools of the District of Columbia, and officers and members, but not the civilian personnel, of the police and fire departments of the District and other than officers and employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad on the Isthmus of Panama, the sick leave being cumulative at the rate of one and one quarter days per month, the total accumulation not to exceed 90 days.

Standards.—The convention reaffirmed its position in favor of higher standards of employment and instructed the AFL Executive Council to continue its cooperation with the affiliated organizations of Government employes in furthering the legislative program of those organizations with regard to improved working conditions in Government employment.

The program contained in a resolution presented to the convention by the delegates of Government employes organizations related particularly "to the extension and liberalization of sick and vacation leaves; the elimination of harmful and objectionable speed-up practices; the reduction of night work requirements, the establishment of a Civil Service Employes Court of Appeals, as a separate and independent institution with employe representation thereon; employe representation on all personnel boards; unqualified adherence to and the extension of the civil service system with the respect to appointment and to tenure of office; the improvement of postal substitute employes and village letter carriers' working and wage conditions; the extension of the shorter work week principle without reduction in wages; equitable upward pay revision; equitable automatic promotion systems for all employes; prompt payment of salaries; extension of the classification principle to those groups which would be benefited thereby and who desire it; prompt elimination of the evils of present so-called efficiency rating systems; higher rate of compensation for overtime and for night work and kindred betterments."

H

HEALTH INSURANCE.

Impressed with statistics presented by the A. F. of L. Executive Council showing that "disease visits the poor with even greater frequency than those able to pay the doctor," that "medical care is not provided according to need but according to capacity to pay," and that "practically no family with an income, less than $5,000 could bear the costs of a major illness without undergoing hardships," the convention declared that "disease, with the costs of its medical care, is one of the most frequent causes of poverty and dependency and must be prevented or given adequate medical care, if social security is to be promoted," that "health is a social as well as an individual concern," and urged the "federal government to create a commission to study and recommend plans for coordination and improvement of our provisions for social security and their expansion to include compensation and medical care for sickness."

HEARST, WILLIAM RANDOLPH.

The convention non-concurred with a number of resolutions condemning William Randolph Hearst and his publications for their alleged anti-labor and pro-fascist policies and demanding a boycott of the publications. It was pointed out that many of the Hearst publications had contracts with locals of the national and international unions holding membership in the American Federation of Labor, that his journalistic policies had nothing to do with these contracts and that under our traditional freedom of the press Mr. Hearst was free to advocate any views that appealed to him.

HERNDON, ANGELO.

Twenty-Year Chain-Gang Sentence.—The convention re-affirmed the action of the 1935 convention in regard to Angelo Herndon, whom the resolution before the convention described as "a young negro labor organizer" sentenced to "20 years on a Georgia chain-gang" under "an old slave insurrection law, enacted during pre-Civil War days by the slave owners to perpetuate the horrible institution of slavery, which was finally abolished by a Civil War." The resolution called for the repeal of the law "and the freedom of Angelo Herndon." The 1935 convention recommended that the American Federation

(Continued on Page 4)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 3)

of Labor actively cooperate with the Georgia State Federation of Labor in securing the expunging of "whatever remnants of the slave insurrection law may remain on the statute books of Georgia."

HOUSING.

A. F. of L. Executive Council's Housing Efforts.—Wagner-Ellenbogen Bill.— The convention approved and directed "a continuation of the vigilant and constructive effort of the Executive Council to promote through legislation the durable construction of housing for wage earners, with particular emphasis upon the importance of substantiality of housing to be purchased as homes."

The convention took this action in adopting the report of the Executive Council on "housing for wage earners," which pointed out that "in October 1935, the Atlantic City convention of the American Federation of Labor sounded a call to wage earners in the labor movement to back with united strength the demand for housing legislation."

Following the 1935 convention the American Federation of Labor Housing Committee was appointed to cooperate with the Labor Housing Conference "in providing information, promoting legislation, developing projects, and protecting the interests of labor and consumer in the housing movement."

The basic features of the legislative program developed by these two groups were included in the United States Housing Bill jointly introduced in Congress by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York and Representative Henry Ellenbogen of Pennsylvania. The bill passed the Senate but was caught in the House Banking and Currency Committee in the "last minute legislative jam," of the Second Session of the Seventy-fourth Congress and failed to reach the floor of the House, although its approval was assured by that body.

"The United States Housing Bill, unchanged in any important respect except for a larger appropriation of funds and greater bond raising powers," the Council reported, "can and must be passed this coming Winter. Senator Wagner has promised to lead the fight again. The American Federation of Labor Housing Committee and the Labor Housing Conference are already at work on detailed plans in preparation for the coming legislative session. Organized labor is determined to place the United States Housing Bill on the statute books next year."

Blighted Rural Areas.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for consideration in connection with efforts to promote proper construction of adequate housing a resolution which, in addition to urging that every effort be made to secure the enactment by Congress of the low rent housing program embodied in the Wagner-Ellenbogen Housing Bill recommended that such program "be supported by adequate financing for Federal subsidies and include specific provisions for replacement of blighted rural areas by planned communities for low income groups."

Labor Representation on Administrative Agencies.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for consideration in connection with the Council's efforts to promote housing for low income groups a resolution providing that the program contemplated by the Wagner-Ellenbogen Housing Bill include provision for labor representation on local, state and federal administrative agencies.

Scott Bill.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for consideration in the Council's efforts in promoting an adequate housing program the housing bill sponsored by Representative Byron N. Scott of California. The resolution on this subject considered by the convention pointed out that Representative Scott's bill provides for adequate housing at $5 per room maximum rental, payment of trade union wages, and the mandatory construction of 10,000,000 dwelling units during the next 10 years, limiting tenancy to income groups.

I

IMMIGRATION.

Kerr-Coolidge Bill.— The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council with regard to the Kerr-Coolidge Bill and recommended that the Council "continue its studies and its activities in connection with immigration." The Council told the convention that the Kerr-Coolidge Bill, which failed to pass the Seventy-fourth Congress, provided that 2,862 immigrants who had entered the country illegally would be given a permanent resident status and that provision was also made for conferring upon the Secretary of Labor power and authority to permit additional aliens who might come here illegally to remain as permanent residents.

The Council opposed the bill in its original form, the report said, but added that during conferences an agreement was reached which was reasonably satisfactory to the American Federation of Labor upon the disputed provisions of the bill. It has been stated, the Council said, that the bill, if enacted into law "would provide for the deportation of 20,000 persons who were classified as state narcotic addicts and aliens who were convicted of carrying concealed weapons."

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND DRAFTSMEN'S UNIONS.

Legislative Program.— The convention recommended for the favorable consideration of the AFL Executive Council a resolution declaring that the American Federation of Labor support, with every possible means at its disposal, the achievement of the following legislative program of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions: "1, a minimum wage of $1800 per annum for all time engineering employes with statutory provisions for automatic increases in salary; 2, a reduction of hours of the present work week without reduction in salaries; 3, extension of the merit system in the classified civil service; 4, 30 years optional retirement with widows' annuities and a reduction of the age limit requirements; 5, creation of a board of appeals with provision for employes' representation for Civil Service employes; 6, transfer of classifying authority to the Civil Service Commission for the allocation of all field service positions under the Classification Act; 7, changes in the present system of efficiency markings to remove present opportunity of discrimination; 8, Changes in present leave law regulations so as to restore previous retroactive privileges for the field service; 9, the preparation of plans for all Government built naval vessels by the drafting personnel of the Naval Establishment."

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

Reaffiliation.— The convention recommended that the conversations already begun by President Green of the American Federation of Labor "looking toward a closer cooperation with the International Federation of Trade Unions should be continued" and delegated further conversations along this line to the President of the A. F. of L. and the AFL Executive Council.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

International Labor Conference—Twentieth Session.— In commending the work of the International Labor Organization as reported by the AFL Executive Council the convention expressed its belief that the participation by America in the annual International Labor Conferences, as typified by the twentieth conference held at Geneva in 1936, gives a picture of the "constructive service of this agency of international cooperation." Emil Rieve, president of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, was the labor representative of the United States at the meeting.

According to the Council's report the twentieth session of the conference marked "the first concentrated effort to effect some improvement in international competitive conditions through the establishment of minimum standards of employment with which all member states are bound to comply after ratification."

The Council pointed out, however, that vital national economic issues develop international complications which hinder the application of minimum work standards. "The countries of the world," the Council reported, "will not bind themselves to any curtailment of hours of production in those industries which may be called upon to produce materials and supplies for war. Until the existing fear of an imminent major conflict has been eliminated the possibilities for constructive steps through the International Labor Organization toward better conditions of employment throughout the world and the achievement of some degree of international economic balance, are, indeed, limited."

International Labor Conference—Twenty-First Session—Labor Delegate from United States.— The convention recommended the early appointment of a labor delegate to the twenty-first session of the International Labor Conference "so that he and his technical advisers may properly prepare themselves for their responsible tasks at Geneva." The convention recommended that the American Federation of Labor be represented at the conference by the President of the American Federation of Labor. "It would be a fitting tribute to his great leadership of American labor," the convention said. "It would also be an appropriate recognition by American labor of the permanent place provided for it upon the Governing Board of the I. L. O."

Regional Labor Conference in Santiago.— The convention declared that the Regional Labor Conference of the American States which are members of the International Labor Organization, held in Santiago, Chile, in January 1936, "marks a milestone in international cooperation on a regional basis." The conference was called at the suggestion of the Government of Chile and delegates from 19 American States were present. The labor representative from the United States was William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

According to the A. F. of L. Executive Council's report to the convention, the major attention of the Santiago conference was focused on problems concerning social insurance and conditions of employment for women and children. Other topics covered by the resolutions which the conference adopted were "urban and rural housing, unemployment, minimum wage fixing, enquiry into conditions of employment in American agriculture, effective application of labor legislation, monopolies, calendar reform, living and working conditions of teachers and vocational training."

Wilson, James—Executive Assistant.— The convention expressed its "especial commendation" for the appointment of James Wilson, former vice president of the American Federation of Labor, as an executive assistant to the director of the International Labor Office. "His appointment," the convention said, "provides an invaluable liason between our movement and that organization and should help in spreading knowledge about its work and cementing our relationship with this agency."

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' HANDBAG, POCKETBOOK AND NOVELTY WORKERS' UNION.

International Charter.— A resolution instructing the AFL Executive Council "to issue a charter to the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers' Union giving it jurisdiction over the pocketbook, luggage, belt and novelty trade," was withdrawn upon the announcement that an agreement had been reached between that organization and the United Leather Workers' International Union.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

Cooperation with Peace Groups.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution placing the American Federation of Labor on record as against war and recommended that the A. F. of L. "cooperate actively with those groups that are striving to bring together all the forces of peace in the United States of America today." The resolution said that trends toward another European war are becoming alarmingly apparent and that in accordance with the policy of the A. F. of L. "it becomes increasingly necessary to combat the forces that are opposed to the interests of orgnized labor and that are leading toward war."

Legislation to Take the Profit Out of War.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council, with instructions to have "a thorough study" made of the subjects "before preparing such legislation as is necessary," a resolution re-affirming the determination of the American Federation of Labor "to support international peace" and expressing its determination "to back in the next session of Congress bills to take the profit out of war, to nationalize the munitions industry, and to establish a stronger neutrality law including embargoes on the shipment of basic war materials to nations at war."

The resolution declared that "the United States War Department has prepared a plan to draft all labor in case of another war, to place workers under military law, and to appoint a government board on which employers and not workers are represented to settle wages, hours of work and working conditions"; that "slight war-time benefits to a few workers are more than offset by the universal suffering of the long years of depression that follow war," and that "labor is aware that the chief human factors in precipitating war are the munitions-makers, the bankers and the big industrialists."

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

Labeling Products.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council "for further study and appropriate action" a resolution instructing the Council "to make an effort to have Congress enact a law prohibiting the sale of commodities in interstate commerce which do not bear, as well as the manufacturer's name, the city and state of manufacture."

The resolution claimed that large industrial concerns are building chains of industrial plants throughout the country, that "in so doing they are trying to defeat organized labor by going into unorganized territories," and that the absence of labels identifying the manufacturer and the location of the factory makes it impossible to determine "whether or not the products are manufactured under fair or unfair working conditions."

ITALY.

Ethiopia.— The convention non-concurred with a resolution condemning "the Italian Fascist Dictator, Mussolini," for having "captured and overthrown the ancient and independent kingdom of Ethiopia in violation of every principle and concept of democracy and of the Covenant of the League of Nations." In addition, the resolution called upon "the United States of America in particular and the nations of the world in general, and the working people everywhere, to refuse to recognize the bloody and bayonet reign of Italian Fascism in Ethiopia, and extend adequate loans to the Ethiopian people to aid them in the repossession and defense of their country and the reestablishment of their sovereign authority."

The inclusion of the proposal for financial assistance to Ethiopia was the major element which led the Resolutions Committee to recommend non-concurrence to the resolution. The Committee's report, which the convention adopted, said:

"The armed invasion of Ethiopia by a Fascist dictator has aroused world-wide attention. The League of Nations gave careful consideration to the prospect of an armed invasion, before Fascists began their deadly work of subjugation. The invader was engaged in a war of conquest, and the world looked on aghast as the conquest proceeded in face of the League of Nations efforts to prevent it. The rights of Ethiopians to maintain self-government in the land where they have lived for thousands of years has been destroyed by force of arms.

"The present situation in Ethiopia is one in which our country must be governed by those diplomatic considerations which are involved by the attitude of other nations. We do not conceive that our trade union movement would improve the international situation or the present welfare of Ethiopians by advancing loans to them as proposed by the resolution.

"While in sympathy with the substance of the resolution we cannot concur with the proposal that loans should be advanced, and we therefore non-concur with the resolution."

J

JURISDICTION.

Beer Coil Cleaners.— The convention concurred in the action of the AFL Executive Council in confirming the right of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters to jurisdiction over beer box coil cleaners, which jurisdiction had been contested by the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance. The Council said that inasmuch as this work had been continually recognized as coming under the jurisdiction of the Plumbers and Steamfitters the application of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes was denied.

Coopers vs. Carpenters.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution requesting the Council to make investigations and adjustments of the complaints of the Coopers International Union of North America charging that the union's jurisdiction had been invaded by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, which it was alleged had accepted as members men and women engaged in coopering in a number of cities under the guise of the Sawmill and Timber Workers Union.

Electrical Workers—Seamen—Longshoremen.— The convention authorized the AFL Executive Council to continue its endeavors to adjust the jurisdictional differences between the Electrical Workers, Seamen and Longshoremen.

Glass Bottle Blowers Association—Jurisdiction Over Factory Employes.— The convention non-concurred with a resolution authorizing that the name of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association be changed to read Glass Machine Operators and Glass Machine Foremen, with provision for the appointment of a committee to work out and report back to the convention "a grant of jurisdiction of the lehr, sorters, packers, shippers and other unskilled workers around glass factories." The resolution was introduced by a central labor council. The convention held that a request for changing the title of one of the international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. "should come into the convention only through the international union or unions interested."

Lithographers' International Protective and Beneficial Association vs. Printing Trades Organizations.— Relative to the controversy between the Lithographers' International Protective and Beneficial Association and the printing trades unions on questions of jurisdiction over off-set work and amalgamation of the Association with the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union and the International Photo-Engravers Union the convention recommended "re-affirmation of previous actions and decisions of the conventions of the American Federation of Labor" and "concurrence of the report of the Executive Council to this convention."

The Executive Council decided "that the action of the American Federation of Labor conventions and decisions rendered upon this subject ever since 1915 were fully within the authority of the American Federation of Labor," urgently solicited "every possible effort on the part of all concerned to adjust differences along lines indicated and approved by the Executive Council and which have so long divided the organizations within the field of plate making and printing involved," and expressed the sincere hope that it may not be called upon to exercise the power of suspension vested in it."

Masters, Mates and Pilots of America vs. Harbor Boat Towmen and Railroad Marine Workers, Inc., New York, N. Y.— The convention declared that "a rather complicated situation" had developed among the trades interested in this question, especially in the Port of New York, and recommended that Preident Green of the A. F. of L. call a conference within 60 days after the adjournment of the convention "for the purpose of securing a satisfactory adjustment of the issues involved."

The convention suggested that the following organizations be notified of the date of the hearing: International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers; National Organization Masters, Mates, and Pilots of America; International Longshoremen's Association; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America; Brotherhood Railway Carmen of America; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America; International Union of Operating Engineers; International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers, and Helpers; International Association of Machinists; Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; International Seamen's Union of America, and any other unions who may be interested.

Masters, Mates and Pilots vs. International Seamen's Union.— The convention authorized the AFL Executive Council to continue with efforts to harmonize the jurisdictional differences between the Masters, Mates and Pilots and the International Seamen's Union.

Neon Sign Glass Industry.— The convention commended the AFL Executive Council for its efforts to adjust the controversy regarding jurisdiction over workers in the Neon sign glass industry between the Electrical Workers, the Painters, the Flint Glass Workers and the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association, and authorized the Council to continue its consideration of this controversy, "to hold conferences and to exercise all efforts possible to bring about a settlement of the jurisdictional differences which have arisen."

Operating Engineers vs. Firemen and Oilers.— The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in endeavoring to compose the differences of jurisdictional problems which arose between the International Union of Operating Engineers and the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers. The Council reported that former Vice President James Wilson was appointed to represent the A. F. of L. in conferences with the representatives of the two organizations. Mr. Wilson reported that in his judgment the best interests of the unions involved would be promoted and protected by amalgamation. The Council said that amalgamation would be acceptable to it provided the officers and members of both organizations agree, but that it was not the purpose of the Council "to force amalgamation of these two organizations."

Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America vs. Upholsterers' International Union of North America.— The convention ordered the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America "to withdraw the charters they have issued in the City of Chicago to the two local unions affiliated with the Upholsterers' International Union of North America, and that no other charters shall be granted by the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America to a local union or members thereof that have seceded from the Upholsterers' International Union of North America."

Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Stone Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers' International Union vs. Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union of America.— The convention approved the decision of the AFL Executive Council denying the right of the officers of the International Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Stone Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers to change its title to include wood block, brick and concrete pavers, road builders and helpers, in accordance with the complaint submitted by the representatives of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union of America.

The Council pointed out that the addition of these words to the title of the Pavers' Union transgressed upon the jurisdiction of the Hod Carriers and required the Pavers Union to resume its original title with the warning that failure to do so "is justification for the suspension of their charter."

K

KEAN, WILLIAM.

Fraternal Delegate from British Trades Union Congress.— The convention presented an engraved watch, chain and knife to William Kean, general secretary of the National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades of Great Britain and one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. Mrs. Kean did not accompany the British delegate, but the convention presented her, through Mr. Kean, with an engraved platinum watch set with diamonds.

KING-RAMSEY-CONNER DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for further investigation and such action as their investigation warrants, a resolution condemning the action of California authorities in arresting Earl King, secretary of the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers Association; Ernst G. Ramsey, former patrolman, and Frank J. Conner, ship's delegate, on the charge of planning and assisting in the murder of George Alberts, chief engineer of the Point Lobos, in San Francisco Harbor, and pledging the convention's moral support to the defense of the men.

The resolution claimed that industrial associations and chambers of commerce had been active in securing "provocateurs and stool pigeons" to testify against the men, that nearly a hundred San Francisco Bay area unions have formed a King-Ramsey-Conner Defense Committee, and that the Alameda County Central Labor Union has endorsed the Defense Committee and its purpose.

KOHLER COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.— After reviewing at length the anti-union policy of the Kohler Company of Kohler, Wisconsin, from the strike of Federal Labor Union No. 18545 called on July 16, 1934, as a persuasive measure to prevent the concern from forcing the workers to accept the company union policy, the convention pledged to the Kohler strikers "the continued support of the American Federation of Labor by renewing the nation-wide publicity," authorized by the 1935 convention, "through circular letter and the labor press of North America," requested the president of the American Federation of Labor "to use his best efforts to prevent the awarding of government contracts to the Kohler Company," and recommended that "the membership of the American Federation of Labor purchase the products" of union firms manufacturing articles similar to those manufactured by the Kohler Company.

The convention was informed that the violent methods used by the company against union members began on July 27, 1934, when two union men were killed, 43 others wounded and scores of men, women and children gassed.

L

LABOR CONVENTION HOTEL HEADQUARTERS.

Barber shops.— The convention adopted a resolution requesting the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to urge those responsible for the arrangements of future conventions to do all within their power to see that at least the barber shops in the headquarters hotel be organized under the Journeymen Barbers International Union of America." The convention also requested the AFL Executive Council to urge "all international and state federations of labor to cooperate with the Journeymen Barbers International Union of America, especially when having future conventions, and use their utmost endeavors to see that the barber shops at the hotel headquarters display the union shop card of the J. B. I. U. of A."

LABOR-DISPLACING MACHINERY AND DEVICES.

Federal Investigations.— The AFL Executive Council was commended by the convention for their efforts in support of Federal legislation providing for an investigation of workers displaced by machinery and power devices and recommended that the Council continue their efforts to secure the desired information.

The Council reported to the convention that an A. F. of L. representative testified in favor of the bill introduced by Representative Palmisano of Maryland, providing that the Secretary of Labor "compile a list of labor-saving devices, machinery and otherwise, put in operation in the United States after December, 1912, which are still in use, and to estimate the number of persons now unemployed by reason of use of each kind or type of such devices." The bill failed of enactment.

At the request of the A. F. of L. Senator Hatch of New Mexico made an amendment to his Relief Bill, which called for a study, survey and investigation of the "number of persons now unemployed by reason of the use of labor-saving devices, mechanical and otherwise, in operation in the United States."

LABOR IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

Menace of Dictatorships.— In acting on the report of the AFL Executive Council relative to the development of dictatorships in Europe, the convention declared that the menace to labor in these forms of government "is that where autocratic powers control the state, there the forces of reaction doom the free trade unions either to extinction or to impotence." Taking its key from the Council's statement that "the hope of the labor movements of all countries lies in free constitutional government," the convention pledged "continuing and relentless opposition" to the spread of dictatorships throughout the world.

"Dictatorships in all their manifestations," the convention declared, "are the foes of democratic government and democratic institutions. Under dictatorship there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of the press, no freedom of assemblage and no freedom of religious worship. In a word, no man can be free in mind, in person or in soul, under dictatorship of whatever kind.

"The American Labor Movement takes its stand with all other free labor movements in its unalterable opposition to the spread of dictatorships whether in Germany, Italy, Soviet Russia, or any other country. In the inspiring words of President Green, 'We are not so much concerned with the brand of dictatorship, its character or its kind * * * the American Federation of Labor is against every brand of dictatorship of any kind.'"

LABOR PARTY.

The convention refused to endorse the principle of either a Labor party or a Farmer-Labor party established with the authority and support of the American Federation of Labor, and reaffirmed its approval of the non-partisan political policy which has been applied successfully by the A. F. of L. for many years and has been supported by frequent convention declarations.

There were ten resolutions before the convention urging the adoption of the Labor party policy. In non-concurring with them all the convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee, which said:

"Your committee is of the opinion that nothing has occurred since the last convention to justify any change in the well established non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

"To the contrary, the most recent political experience in the election of a President of the United States and the members of the Congress of the United States, again emphatically demonstrates the wisdom and the practical value of the non-partisan policy of the American Federation of Labor to the trade unionists of our country."

LABOR PRESS.

Chain of Labor Papers.— The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to study the question of the labor press "with a view to ultimately establishing a chain of labor papers." The resolution said that "labor in its struggle for a more just share of the product of its toil and a fuller, happier life finds itself more and more hampered by the lack of avenues of publicity," and that "the press has proved to be one of the greatest barriers to a clear understanding of the problems and expressions of labor."

Group Subscriptions by Local Unions for Local Labor Papers.— A resolution was adopted by the convention requesting the Labor Press Association to "appeal to the national and international officers to advise their local unions to subscribe in a body for the local paper and where none exists to join with the nearest city which has a labor paper," and petitioned the American Federation of Labor "to write to various state and central bodies asking them to refrain from sponsoring year books and souvenir programs which take volumes of advertising from the local labor paper which is struggling for an existence."

The resolution pointed out that "the union labor movement everywhere recognizes the need of the local labor press in supporting the various trades and giving proper publicity to all of their activities," and declared "there are only two sources of revenue that the legitimate labor papers can rely upon, namely, subscriptions and advertising."

LABOR REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNMENT BOARDS.

Federal Reserve Board and Reconstruction Finance Corporation. — The convention declared that "organized labor is entitled to representation on the Federal Reserve Board and subordinate Federal Reserve agencies and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation equal to that accorded to agriculture and industry, and that such agencies shall require as a condition of eligibility for credit or other financial assistance, unless such monies are to be used in any enterprise or business that has to do with the employment of labor, that the borrower shall not conduct its business activities in a manner antagonistic to the national labor policy set forth in the Wagner Labor Relations Act," and urged the amendment of the Federal Reserve and Reconstruction Finance Acts in accordance with this principle "to the end that credit and financial policies of the Federal Government work in harmony with the national labor policies" set forth in the Labor Relations Act, "and to afford due and entitled recognition equal to that now afforded organized management and finance and organized agriculture."

The fear was expressed that without such a coordination between the national labor and financial policies of the Federal Government there is danger of their working at cross purposes with "ever threatening excessive fluctuation in prices and diminution of the purchasing power of wages and thus impairment of the underlying agricultural and commercial assets supporting the national credit structures."

Mandatory Provision by Law for Labor Representation.— Asserting that "in the United States it is notorious that labor finds it most difficult and frequently impossible to secure the appointment of responsible and experienced men of labor" on Federal and State boards created to administer legislation enacted to benefit working men and women, the convention declared that "it will not support legislation creating any administrative body affecting labor unless such legislation provides that labor shall have direct representation upon such administrative bodies."

The convention further recommended that "state federations of labor and city central bodies insist upon the application of this policy and refuse to cooperate with any state and city administration which fails to place responsible labor representatives upon every board or commission having to do with the administration of legislation affecting labor," and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to take up with the President of the United States the subject of adequate labor representation upon every Federal board, commission, or other body created for the purpose of administering legislation affecting labor directly or indirectly."

LIBERTY MAGAZINE.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution instructing the Council to make a complete investigation of the alleged activities of so-called "Better Citizenship Clubs," "Civic Betterment Campaigns," and "Americanization Drives," to enlist the support of "reputable organizations and individuals in a community and subsequently divert the labor sentiment thus aroused into anti-labor channels," with the added instruction to "convey the findings of this investigation to all city central bodies and state federations of labor."

Claiming that "individuals purporting to represent the Liberty Magazine have presented themselves and offered their services as promoters of such campaigns in several communities," the resolution also instructed the Executive Council "to make a particular study of what connection, if any, the Liberty Magazine may have with such an anti-labor drive."

LINDEMANN-HOVERSON COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy. — After receiving information that the Executive Council and officers of the American Federation of Labor, who were instructed by the 1935 convention of the Federation to use every effort possible to adjust the dispute of Milwaukee union machinists, molders, foundry employes and metal polishers with the A. J. Lindemann and Hoverson Company, had been unable to bring about an adjustment of the controversy, the convention directed the AFL Executive Council and officers "to inform all units of the Federation of the anti-labor attitude of the Lindemann-Hoverson Company and to urge all members of organized labor and their friends and sympathizers not to purchase products manufactured by this company."

The convention was informed that the company manufactures Alcazar, Lindemann and Hoverson Kerogas and other brands of electric, gas, kerosene and gasolene stoves, and that more than six hundred employes of the company "were forced to go on strike August 20, 1935, because this firm, in violation of the Wagner Labor Relations Act, discharged workers who had started a movement to organize the employes of the company."

LOBBY LEGISLATION.

Although recognizing the imperative necessity for the enactment of legislation to end "pernicious and corrupt lobbying" for and against the passage of federal laws, the convention realized the danger that "weasel-worded bills may hamper the publicly valuable efforts of legitimate organizations and groups" and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to pursue its efforts to secure the enactment of legislation for the purposes in mind, but that it be further instructed to oppose vigorously any measures which will not clearly produce the results aimed at and avoid the danger herein mentioned."

The Executive Council's report pointed out that great sums of money have been used by lobbies to defeat measures introduced in Congress and that "in one instance nearly $1,000,000 was admitted to have been used by one man in fighting what is known as the 'death sentence' in the holding company bill."

The Council said the proposed law prohibited the collection of funds to be used "principally" to aid in the enactment or defeat of federal legislation. Those in charge of the bill stated that the word "principally" would exempt such organizations as the American Federation of Labor and the American Legion, but nevertheless the inclusion of the word "created so much opposition to the bill that it was defeated by a vote of 266 to 77."

LOCAL CENTRAL BODIES.

Boycott Power.— The convention amended the constitution of the American Federation of Labor by restricting the power of central labor bodies to boycott employers. The matter was brought before the convention by delegates representing the A. F. of L. Metal Trades and Building Trades Departments in a resolution which charged that the action of central labor councils and other delegate bodies in declaring firms unfair which have agreements with national and international unions "is in direct violation with the basic principles of collective bargaining and the necessary observance of agreements entered into by international unions."

On this subject, Section 7 of Article XI of the A. F. of L. Constitution said: "No Central Labor Union, or other central body of delegates, shall have authority or power to originate a boycott, nor shall such bodies indorse and order the placing of the name of any person, firm or corporation on an unfair list until the Local Union desiring the same has, before declaring the boycott, submitted the matter in dispute to the Central Body for investigation, and the best endeavors on its part to effect an amicable settlement. Violation of this section shall forfeit charter."

The convention amended this section to read: No Central Labor Union or other Central Body of delegates shall have power or authority to originate a boycott, nor shall such bodies endorse and order the placing of the name of any person, firm or corporation on an unfair list that has agreements with any International or National Union or Local Unions until the National or International Unions or Local Unions having such agreements are informed of the request made upon the Central Body of delegates and such International, National or Local Unions working under agreements that may be affected have had reasonable time to intercede and until the Local Union desiring such action by the Central Body has, before declaring the boycott, submitted to the Central Body for investigation and the best endeavors on its part to effect an amicable settlement.

"Failure to reach an understanding between the Unions involved, the entire matter shall be referred to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor which shall be empowered to grant or refuse such request."

LOCAL TRADE UNIONS (DIRECTLY AFFILIATED).

Dues.— The convention non-concurred with a number of resolutions calling for an amendment to the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor providing for a reduction of the dues paid by directly affiliated local trade unions. The Constitution fixes the dues at "thirty-five cents per member per month, twelve and one-half cents of which must be set aside to be used only in the case of strike or lockout unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Council."

LYNCHING.

Federal Legislation.— Holding that "lynching of human beings and violent mob rule are a frequent practice in the United States," often affecting labor leaders in strike regions and negroes, while the "constituted authority" in some parts of the country are "either unwilling or unable to bring to justice the perpetrators of such hideous crimes," the convention went on record as "favoring the enactment of federal legislation against mob rule or lynching in any form whatsoever in any part of the United States."

M

MARINE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring the establishment of a department "to be known as the Marine Transportation Department of the American Federation of Labor," with the request that the Council arrange for a conference of the international unions interested.

The resolution considered by the convention said "it is apparent that there is an existing need for closer relationship between the organizations comprising the marine trades of the American Federation of Labor" and recommended "that a committee, composed of delegates of the organizations affected, together with a representative of the American Federation of Labor who is experienced with the maritime industry and who shall be designated by the President of the American Federation of Labor to serve with said committee in an advisory capacity, shall be appointed to draw up the consitution and by-laws of such a department and present them to this convention or the Executive Board of the American Federation of Labor for approval and adoption."

MARION, OHIO.

Firemen's Pensions.— The convention condemned the action of the City Council of Marion, Ohio, in repealing the Firemen's Pension Ordinance established many years ago. This action, in addition to depriving "widows, children and retired brothers, some of whom are sick and infirm and unable

(Continued on Page 5)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 4)

to provide any means of livelihood," of their support, the convention said "may be the means of undermining the pension system in may cities in the State of Ohio and elsewhere."

McNAMARA, J. B.

Pardon.—The convention concurred with the resolution petitioning the Governor of the State of California for an immediate pardon of J. B. McNamara. The resolution said Mr. McNamara "is imprisoned by the State of California for more than 25 years," declared that his real crime "is that he was a devoted leader of the organized labor movement and fought against anti-union forces in California," and said he has served a prison sentence much longer than any other labor prisoner in the United States.

MERCHANT MARINE.

School Ships.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for study and such action as the situation may warrant a resolution expressing opposition to "school ships" for training of cadets and officers for the American Merchant Marine and financed either by state or joint state and federal aid. The convention also recommended that the Executive Council give attention to the extent, if any, to which the maritime organizations affiliated with the A. F. of L. are given a place on the advisory board of such schools.

The resolution said the "marine organizations regard these school ships as undemocratic since the rank and file of men actually working on ships toward a marine career seldom receive appointments to same," and that "past experience has proven that this method of training has neither produced top notch officers nor permanent officer personnel for our merchant marine."

METAL POLISHERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

Change of Title.—The convention concurred in the action of the AFL Executive Council in approving the application of the Metal Polishers International Union to change its title to "Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Helpers International Union." The Council said the change did not transgress upon the jurisdiction of any other international union.

METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

The convention noted with pleasure "the substantial progress made by the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, both in reference to increased membership, to the number of work agreements negotiated, as well as the spirit of cooperation which has developed between the Metal Trades Department, the Building Trades Department, and the Union Label Trades Department," stressed as especially important "the practical application of the cooperative action of the Metal Trades and the Building Trades Departments in negotiating agreements where many, if not all, of the affiliated national unions were directly concerned," and recommended "a continuation of the policy of the cooperative action between the different departments wherever practicable and feasible."

MIGRATORY WORKERS.

Federal Relief.—The convention concurred with a resolution recommending that the AFL Executive Council take action "to obtain the reestablishment, under Federal administration, of transient relief facilities, especially in those areas where migration of labor is a problem" and, in addition, instructed the Council "to promote legislation for a Federal department of public welfare which shall include among its functions responsibility for the migratory laborer."

The resolution pointed out that many transient laborers are active members of the labor movement but are denied the relief obtained by organized labor for the more static part of the working population, and that the abolition of transient divisions of State departments of public welfare "has left underpaid migratory workers without means of support during their journeys over long distances between places of employment."

This condition coupled with "the administration of relief by county and state welfare boards, in many cases dominated by reactionary employer interests," the resolution asserted, "leaves the migratory laborer a victim of hardship on the road."

MOONEY AND BILLINGS CASE.

The Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings case came before the convention again in the form of five resolutions condemning the "monstrous" frameup in connection with their imprisonment in San Quentin in 1917, demanding nation-wide campaigns for Mooney's "unconditional pardon," and for the "release of Mooney and Billings from prison," and pledging the A. F. of L. to continue the fight for the freedom of Mooney and to join with all people and organizations working for his release.

One of the resolutions asked the appropriation of $1,000 to aid Mooney's counsel in defraying the expenses of the habeas corpus proceeding before the California Supreme Court, which has continued for more than a year, and instructed the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor to circularize all national and international unions, state federations of labor and city central bodies requesting them to immendiately appropriate sums of money for use in defraying the cost of the final presentation of the case to the California Supreme Court, involving "expenditures running into thousands of dollars for preparations of briefs, abstracts, findings and other documents," with the recommendation that the unions, state federations and city central bodies "form committees in their respective local unions to stimulate interest in the case and to create public opinion and to raise necessary funds and receive donations to this cause," with the stipulation that "all of the donations are to be transmitted to the stewardship of the San Francisco Labor Council."

After discussion, the convention reaffirmed its previous declarations pronouncing the belief of the A. F. of L. in the innocence of Mooney, and demanding a new trial for him. Relative to the request for financial assistance, the convention recommended that "if a special campaign to raise funds is to be launched it should be undertaken and supervised by the California State Federation of Labor."

N

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS.

Affiliation of Locals with State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies.—Directing attention to the important work performed by state federations of labor and city central bodies in mobilizing sentiment for social and labor legislation and strengthening the position of the American Federation of Labor by assisting in electing to Congress candidates who are friendly to labor, the convention urged that "each national and international union make a survey to determine which of its local unions are not availing themselves of the opportunity to join with their fellow workers in State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies for the purpose of protecting the interests of organized labor, as represented through the American Federation of Labor, to the end that the City Central Bodies and State Federations of Labor shall be better able to perform the functions that have been duly delegated to them as a part of the American Federation of Labor, and particularly to place State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies in a position to more ably assist the American Federation of Labor in furthering legislation placed before the National Congress."

The convention also urged that all affiliated national and international unions request their local unions to affiliate with central bodies, that the officers and representatives of the American Federation of Labor when visiting conventions of the international unions be instructed to urge such international conventions to see that their local unions are affiliated with and supporting the central bodies, and instructed the AFL Executive Council to send a letter to all international unions urging upon them the need of the affiliation of all local unions with central bodies. The resolution calling attention to this matter said that "most of the international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor make it a policy to urge their local unions to support the central bodies, but there are certain of the international unions that are very poorly represented in the central bodies."

NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Government Manufacture of Naval Vessels and War Munitions.—Declaring that the "subject of national defense is injured alike by the propaganda of extreme pacifists and that of extreme militarists and those private interests whose principal purpose is to make profit from the manufacture of war munitions," the convention declared itself as favoring "the full development and upkeep of all Navy yards and arsenals and adequate remuneration of all civilian employes and of all enlisted men and officers in the Army and Navy," and also "the manufacture of war munitions and naval vessels in our arsenals and Navy yards so that the element of private profit will place the branch of national defense beyond the baleful influence of those who seek to create sentiment for the production of war munitions so that they may be able to convert national defense into a medium for private profit."

NATIONAL GUARD IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Legislative Restriction.—Three resolutions regarding the use of the National Guard in industrial disputes were referred to the AFL Executive Council with the request that they continue their efforts to prevent this practice "until there exists no cause for complaint that state militias are used in the guise of maintaining public order, but in reality for the purpose of intimidating workmen and breaking strikes."

The resolutions declared that the National Guard "has been called out 60 times in the past three years to break strikes," that appropriations made for the National Guard in the interest of national defense are in reality used for strikebreaking purposes, and instructed the American Federation of Labor to oppose further granting of government funds to the National Guard "unless it is provided by law that the National Guard may not be called out in strike situations."

NATIONAL LABOR LEGISLATION.

The convention congratulated the A. F. of L. Executive Council and the various unions concerned for the progress made in the enactment of national labor legislation during the last session of Congress.

The Executive Council reported to the convention that twenty-three federal labor laws benefitting many thousands of workers were passed by the second session of the Seventy-fourth Congress, including the laws making prevailing wages mandatory on relief work, the forty-hour week and prevailing wages on government contract work, annual leave and sick leave for government employes, laws benefitting seamen, a Senate resolution ordering an investigation of violations of the right of free speech and free assemblage and undue interference with the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively, a measure forbidding transportation in interstate commerce of professional strikebreakers who would interfere with peaceful picketing, and many other statutes of value to working men and women.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD.

The convention emphasized the apparent determination of many large employers to disregard in some measure the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act as justifying "the conclusion that this legislation must be of the greatest importance to labor, and recommended "that the officers of the American Federation of Labor continue to follow the work of the National Labor Relations Board and the decisions rendered by the courts affecting its application with the thought in mind that it may be necessary to prepare and submit to Congress corrective amendments."

The experience of the National Labor Relations Board, the Executive Council told the convention, "has shown that discrimination against union members and leaders, as well as threats of such discrimination, still remain the most common form of interference with union activity. This is generally done together with deliberate propaganda which not only poisons the minds of the workers against unions but also indicates to them that employers are prepared to make their hostility to unions effective by dismissal."

NAVY.

Designing Naval Vessels.—Declaring that "it is not advisable that the responsibility for preparing naval construction designs should be left in the hands of private designers and shipbuilding corporations," which practice, it was alleged, delayed the building of certain cruisers for more than a year "because of the failure of private corporations to prepare the plans provided for in their contract with the Navy Department," the convention requested the President of the United States and the Navy Department "to establish within the Navy Department a staff of commissioned officers of the Navy competent as designers, so that the Navy Department will depend upon its own designing and construction officers instead of private interests." The convention also urged that "all naval construction plans in the future be prepared by the drafting personnel of the Navy Department."

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Balanced Work Force.—Contending that the so-called "balanced work force" applied by the Navy Department to Navy yards and Navy stations, described as a plan for conserving funds by reducing the number of first class ratings of mechanical employes and including mechanics paid at first, second and third class rating, the convention held that this plan is "easily susceptible to interpretations which will result in first class mechanics of all trades being forced to accept wage rates out of keeping with the qualifications of their trades and at the same time create the opportunity for the employment of competent mechanics in the government service at lower rates of pay under the maximum wage scales authorized in the schedule of wages enforced under the Navy Department."

To obviate this injustice the convention recorded its "opposition to the principles and practices of the so-called 'balanced work force,' which leads to wage reduction practices," and requested the officers of the American Federation of Labor to support the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department "in an effort to have the rules of 1921 re-established so that the intermediate and maximum ratings for mechanics may be eliminated."

NAZISM.

Boycott of German Products.—The convention reaffirmed the action of former conventions of the American Federation of Labor applying the boycott to German-made goods and German services "until the German government recognizes the right of the working people of Germany to organize into bona fide, independent trade unions of their own choosing and until Germany ceases its repressive policy of persecution of the German people."

Destruction of Liberty.—The convention strongly reaffirmed the declaration of previous AFL conventions condemning Nazism, Fascism and Communism for their "destruction of human liberty and a democratic form of government." The convention declared that "dictatorship under any one of these forms of government is still dictatorship—the denial of men's right to a free press, free speech, voluntary associations for the advancement of mutual welfare, and the destruction of those forms of legal and judicial processes through which the rights of the accused are as fully protected as those of the accuser."

Persecution of Jews.—The convention reiterated the condemnation of the persecution of Jews by the German government made by the 1935 convention, which declared: "No person or public body can enumerate the crimes of Nazi Germany without expressing its horror of the persecution of religion in general and the Jews in particular. Upon the crooked cross of Nazism the very teachings of Jesus Christ are being crucified, and the Jews are only the most suffering scapegoats in a campaign against civilization and religion, whether the Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or any other religion."

O

OFFICE WORKERS.

International Union.—Two resolutions presented by delegates from local Stenographers, Bookkeepers and Accountants Unions calling for the establishment of an International Union of Office Workers were referred to the AFL Executive Council by the convention. One of the resolutions proposed that "a special conference be called by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in which there will be representatives from the different locals of stenographers, typists, bookkeepers, accountants and general office workers, such conference in conjunction with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to agree upon the basis on which this new international union should be established." It was pointed out that there are around 4,000,000 office and professional workers in the United States susceptible of being organized.

ONE-MAN STREET CARS.

Declaring that "the principle involved in the substitution of one-man street cars for two-men cars harmfully affects all labor," the convention condemned the further introduction of one-man street cars in Washington, D. C., "as unnecessary in the interest of economy, as dangerous to the riding public because of the exceptional traffic conditions, and as extending a policy of adding to unemployment at a time when every possible effort should be made to end unemployment."

The convention also resolved that "in view of the fact that the workers constitute the great body of street car and bus riders, not only in Washington but in every American city, the Capital Transit Company and other transportation companies be advised that the American Federation of Labor has gone on record as opposed in principle to the dangerous and unwise policy of using only one man instead of two in the operation of street cars and buses through our crowded streets."

The resolution called attention to the fact that despite the opposition of the Central Labor Union and the Federation of Citizens Associations, the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia had recently authorized the Capital Transit Company of Washington to extend the operation of one-man street cars by putting on twenty such cars converted to one-man operation in addition to the one-man operated cars and buses already in use on the streets of Washington.

ORDER OF RAILROAD TELEGRAPHERS.

Child Labor Amendment to United States Constitution.—The convention expressed its appreciation of the activities of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers to secure ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution. The convention was informed that although numerous conventions of the Railroad Telegraphers have adopted resolutions in favor of the amendment, the 1936 convention, held in New Orleans in May, inaugurated a campaign to promote the ratification of the amendment by all legitimate means at its command, which had entailed the assumption of a considerable financial burden by the union.

ORGANIZATION.

Beer Can Industry.—The convention requested the AFL Executive Council to assist in a campaign to organize the employes in the beer can industry in order to remedy the existing situation in which "all cans for the purpose of canning beer are at the present time made under unfair labor conditions." In addition the convention resolved "that the American Federation of Labor advise trade unionists to refuse to purchase beer in cans which are manufactured under non-union conditions."

Doll and Toy Workers.—Acting on information that in many instances where A. F. of L. federal unions of doll and toy workers have been organized with increased wages and improved working conditions "employers moved their plants to cities where there are no unions in the industry," the convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council call a conference to draft a plan for the establishment of a national council of unions in the doll and toy industry and to assign an organizer to assist in the organization work if funds permit.

Enamelware and Kitchen Utensils Industry.—In order to further organization of workers in enamelware and kitchen utensils industry the convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council work out a plan for the formation of a council of workers in the industry, similar to the ones already established in the cement, aluminum, gasoline station attendants and other industries, and to decide where and when this council shall meet. A resolution calling for the assignment of a full time and other organizers for the industry was referred to the Executive Council for favorable action if funds permit.

Furniture Industry.—The convention directed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to call at the earliest possible date a conference of the representatives of the craft unions engaged in the furniture manufacturing industry for the purpose of agreeing on a plan of organizing the industry.

Fur Workers.—The convention concurred in a resolution pledging the A. F. of L. to give its utmost support to the International Fur Workers Union in their campaign "to organize the entire fur industry in Canada, as well as in the United States of America."

General Organizing Campaign.—The convention commended the activities of the AFL Executive Council in its general organizing campaign carried on during the year, as a result of which 218 directly affiliated unions had been organized in the major industrial groups including agriculture, aluminum, cannery, cement, chemical, dairy, match, petroleum marketing and grain processing industries, with a large number of agreements negotiated for protecting the workers therein.

Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corporation Employes.—The convention directed the A. F. of L. Executive Council to use its best efforts to organize the employes in approximately fifty plants owned by the Kraft-Phenix Corporation, only one of whose factories is now organized.

Laundry Workers.—A resolution instructing the American Federation of Labor to circularize all state federations of labor, city central labor bodies and A. F. of L. organizers requesting them to organize the laundry workers in their districts and localities was concurred in by the convention. The action was taken on information that the finances of the Laundry Workers' International Union does not permit placing additional organizers in the large number of cities where the laundry workers are unorganized.

Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions.—The convention congratulated the AFL Executive Council for its work in organizing local trade and federal labor unions which now number 914 with an average membership of 82,153. During the year $146,656.02 were paid out in strike benefits and assistance to these unions.

Mass Production Industries.—The convention concurred in a resolution calling for support of the "organization drives in the mass production industries and to initiate one in the food industry" in order to remedy a situation wherein a considerable number of workers in the mass production industries "are desirous of joining labor organizations but are shunted off into company unions which are used against bona fide labor organizations."

Negro Workers.—The convention pointed out that for a number of years the annual conventions of the A. F. of L. "made it clear, plain and distinct that all workers, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, irrespective of race, creed, color, nationality or sex are eligible to membership in the American Federation of Labor," and re-affirmed and re-endorsed the Supplemental Report of the Executive Council on this matter to the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor, which expressed the opinion that "since each affiliated national and international union has complete autonomy that the welfare of the negro worker will be best served by a campaign of education of white workers to bring to them the necessity of solidarity in the ranks of the workers and the voluntary elimination of all restrictions against full rights of membership to the negro," and recommended "that all national and international unions and the American Federation of Labor conduct a continuous campaign of education to bring to the white worker the necessity for greater unity of the workers in the labor movement to the end that all discrimination against negroes will be removed."

North Dakota.—Acting on information that it was necessary to provide trained organizers to assist the labor movement of North Dakota, the convention concurred in a resolution urging the organization staffs of the national and international unions in conjunction with American Federation of Labor organizers "to coordinate their efforts and cooperate with the North Dakota State Federation of Labor and its affiliated central bodies in the effort to bring about a better and fuller standard of living for the working men and women of this state."

Southwestern Pennsylvania.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a request for the appointment of a full-time organizer for Southwestern Pennsylvania to be put into effect if the funds of the Federation warrant such action.

West Virginia.—A resolution calling for the assignment of three more full-time organizers to the state of West Virginia was referred by the convention to the AFL Executive Council to be put into effect if funds permit.

White Collar Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution urging an immediate "nation wide drive for organization of the white collar workers" to be put into effect if funds permit. The resolution said that "the white collar workers in the United States of America are suffering from miserably low wages and extremely poor working conditions," and that they are "one of the most exploited sections of the working population due to a lack of trade union affiliation."

ORGANIZERS.

Negroes.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution authorizing the President of the American Federation of Labor "to appoint one or more paid negro general organizers so that they may help promote, in cooperation with the national, international and federal unions, a program of organization and education among the black and white workers of America."

The resolution said "there is no Negro organizer now under the direct supervision of the American Federation of Labor," and claimed that "previous conventions have only given perfunctory approval of resolutions calling for an appointment of Negro labor organizers," and "have actually never done anything about it."

P

PANAMA CANAL.

Alien Employes.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to make every effort to have the United States Senate "follow out its intent to make a full investigation of the alien situation on the Panama Canal." It was claimed that the Senate had already authorized the investigation and appointed the investigating committee, but that the probe had not been made.

As justification for the investigation the convention was informed that approximately 10,000 British West Indian aliens are employed by the United States Government on the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad and that "3,000 of these aliens are occupying skilled and semi-skilled positions in the crafts and in office helper positions." It was explained that "resolutions providing for the replacement of these 3,000 skilled and semi-skilled aliens have been approved by the Metal Trades Department in several conventions," and that bills sponsored by the American Federation of Labor were "introduced in both Houses of Congress during the last session providing for the replacement of these skilled and semi-skilled aliens by American citizens."

PANAMA CANAL AND PANAMA RAILROAD EMPLOYES.

Appointments to United States Naval Academy.—The officers of the American Federation of Labor were instructed "to assist and further whatever legislation may be introduced at the next session of Congress which will provide for appointments to the Naval Academy by the Governor of the Panama Canal from among sons of employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad." The convention was informed that Congress in 1934 approved an amendment to pending legislation authorizing the Governor of the Panama Canal to appoint a cadet to the West Point Military Academy "from among the sons of employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad." The Canal Zone Central Labor Union asked that this appointment privilege be extended to the Naval Academy.

Legislative Representatives.—Pointing out that "the organized employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad have found it necessary because of their geographical location a long ways from the United States to send selected representatives to Washington each year for legislative purposes," with their expenses financed by the Panama Canal Metal Trades Council, "the Government incurring no expense through such procedure," the convention directed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to "make every effort through the Department of Labor and the office of the Secretary of War to provide that the chosen representatives of organized labor be allowed to proceed to Washington under instruction regardless of position, leave or quarters status." As an argument in favor of this plan the convention emphasized the point that "the present national administration has approved a policy of collective bargaining between employers and employes and is fostering the principle of selective representation."

Retirement Legislation.—Pointing out that the "employes of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad are not included in the provisions of the Civil Service Retirement Act, as are the other civilian employes of the government in the Canal Zone," but have a separate retirement law incorporated into the Canal Zone code, the convention instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to make an attempt to secure from the next session of Congress legislation providing 23-year optional retirement at 55 years of age, with full annuity, for the employes of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad. It was claimed that the climatic conditions on the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad, characterized by "high temperature, great humidity, and the actinic rays of a tropical sun," combine to induce old age earlier than for other government employes, thus making unjust the present retirement of 60 or 62 years.

Shorter Work Week.—The convention instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to make every effort to have the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad employes included in any beneficial legislation reducing hours of labor for government employes." The convention was informed that "the Panama Canal Administration has excepted the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad from legislation providing for Saturday half holidays and has opposed the application of a forty-hour week measure (enacted by Congress in 1934) to the employes of the Panama Canal."

PANAMA CANAL ZONE RETIREMENT ACT.

Pensions for Widows.—The convention instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to support legislation "which will extend to widows of United States citizens, annuitants, of the Canal Zone Retirement Act benefits of two-thirds of the annuities received by the employe before his death." The convention took this action on receipt of information relative to the deleterious effect on the health of the women members of the families of employes incurred by residence in the tropics.

PAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Principles and Policy.—The convention concurred with the report of the AFL Executive Council outlining its efforts to relieve from oppression the labor movements in various Latin-American countries, especially in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Colombia, commended the Council and President Green "most warmly for their faithfulness to the Pan-American Federation of Labor in most trying circumstances," and expressed "complete agreement" with the report of the Council which said: "The spirit of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, a Federation founded for the advancement and defense of the workers in every nation of the American continent, is living in the souls of hundreds of thousands of wage earners whose hope that their big brother, the American Federation of Labor, might perform the miracle, and relieve them of the oppressive and tyrannical dictators and employers who are exploiting and preying upon the workers' helpless position, and who also are being sustained by their own imposed governments."

With regard to protecting the rights of the workers in the Latin-American countries, the convention said:

"We are convinced that labor of the United States still has its greatest role to play in the affairs of this hemisphere and that the Pan-American Federation of Labor must be maintained for that great service. In common with our fellow trade unionists of the American nations, we are the guardians of the democratic principle, which we are bound, in unity, to defend against all comers and at all costs. That it is our historic mission there can be no doubt.

"Even today the democratic ideal is threatened in some of our own nations of this Western Hemisphere, while as a consequence workers are oppressed. But the Pan-American Federation of Labor remains as the bulwark of their faith,—the symbol of their convictions.

"The council calls attention especially to Cuba and we are well aware of the sufferings and oppressions in that unhappy nation. It is tragic that one dictatorship should be replaced by another, if anything more hideous than its predecessor. But we shall remain true to our convictions, faithful to our pledges.

"As an affiliate of the Pan-American Federation of Labor we pledge to it our continued support and we send, through it, our warning to dictatorship, whether Fascist, Nazist or Communist, our warnings that there must be no encroachment upon the free nations of the Americas, for in the Americas freedom must find its permanent home."

Sixth Congress.—Taking note of the AFL Executive Council's report of the difficulties surrounding endeavors to convene the Sixth Congress of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, the convention expressed the belief that the Congress "be held at such time in the future as is both financially possible for the member organizations and as would be of the highest measure of service in promoting international good will."

PICKETING.

The convention approved the law enacted by the Seventy-fourth Congress providing that whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be transported in interstate or foreign commerce, any person with intent to employ such person to obstruct or interfere with the right of peaceful picketing during any labor controversy affecting wages, hours, or conditions of labor, or the right of organization for the purpose of collective bargaining, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding $5,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both in the discretion of the court.

The AFL Executive Council told the convention that the enactment of this measure "did more to prevent disturbances in labor disputes than could be accomplished in any other way." The Council said the evidence submitted to the judiciary committees of both houses of Congress showed that "strikebreaking agencies have been the cause of riots and the deaths of many strikers." In addition, the report of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor favoring the passage of the bill declared that "these organizations sometimes drum up business by fomenting industrial disorder where none exists in order to secure a contract to suppress it."

POSEY, E. L.

Government School to Give Seamen Anti-Strike Training.—In connection with a resolution condemning E. L. Posey, United States Shipping Commissioner at Norfolk, Va., for an alleged newspaper statement in which he was reported as saying that "one way to prevent strikers among crews of American ships is to provide a sort of seagoing unit of young men similar to the CCC," and expressing his belief "that if young men of good moral character were trained for sea duties, in the manner in which those in the CCC camps are trained, our ships would be able to do away with the trouble makers and replace them with Americans who will live up to their promises," the convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council "cooperate with the Maritime Unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. in considering the subject of adequate training for those desiring to follow the sea."

POSTAL SERVICE.

Non-Civil Service Employes.—As a measure for protecting and extending the United States Civil Service the convention reiterated its opposition to the use of non-Civil Service employes in the postal service except during bona fide emergencies. This subject was brought to the attention of the convention in a resolution signed by the delegates of the postal unions which pointed out that the protection given by the United States Civil Service to Government employes against undesirable working conditions and safeguarding their positions against unfair labor practices and lay-offs has been lowered during the last several years by the introduction of temporary non-Civil Service employes into the Postal Service. The postal unions contended that "this condition, because it tends to limit the number of regular Civil Service employes, is a menace to the entire Civil Service system."

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Fair Labor Policy.—The convention expressed its appreciation of the fair labor policy applied to the employes of the Postal Service under Postmaster General James A. Farley. "While such relations have existed in the past with individual officials and bureaus," the convention said, "the present administration of the Postal Service is the first to officially recognize and deal with the unions as a whole."

The resolution introduced by delegates of the Postal Service unions, which the convention considered, said the "policy forming officials of the Postal Service have repeatedly declared themselves as recognizing the right of organization by the employes and of spokesmanship through their duly elected representatives," pointed out that "this policy is one inaugurated by the present administration of the Post Office Department and is an innovation and marked change from previous personnel relations," and urged that energetic steps be taken to impress upon subordinates in the field the "duty and responsibility of observing and furthering recognition of the unions and the sincere practice of collective bargaining with respect to administrative matters."

The resolution also expressed the sincere hope that this example will be followed by the extension of these principles to the entire Government service.

PRESIDENT (A. F. OF L.).

Authority to Discipline Central Labor Unions and Federal and Local Labor Unions.—The convention adopted the following rule: "The president of the American Federation of Labor, under authority vested in the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, is hereby authorized to discipline any central labor union or any federal or local labor union and where the president of the American Federation of Labor in pursuance of this authority has disciplined any central labor union, or federal or local labor union, and has suspended or expelled its officials, or has suspended its charter, an appeal may be taken by the aggrieved party to the Executive Council, and if the said appeal presents a prima facie case of error on the part of the president, the Executive Council may hear and determine the appeal."

PREVAILING WAGE RATES ON GOVERNMENT WORK.

The convention expressed itself "in favor of congressional and presidential action which will make it mandatory and obligatory that on any work, whether performed directly by the Federal Government or any governmental subdivision of any State, territory, county or city in which Federal funds are utilized, in part or in whole, by contract or otherwise, that all men working upon any of the said projects shall receive and be paid for their services, both skilled and unskilled, the prevailing rate of pay in the community in which the project or the work is being performed, but in no event shall such pay be less than the minimum set forth by the Federal Government heretofore in its work program."

PUBLIC CONTRACTS ACT.

Enactment.—The convention expressed its gratitude to Senators and Representatives in the United States Congress who overcame very decided opposition to the Walsh-Healey Bill and enacted it into law.

The A. F. of L. Executive Council reported that the Act "provided that after September 28, 1936, all specifications and contracts involving the purchase of $10,000 or more of supplies, or loans or grants, will contain provisions that the prevailing rate of wages must be paid; employes must not work more than eight hours in any day or 40 hours in any week, and boys under 16 years of age and girls under 18 years of age or convict labor, must not be employed. All work must be done in sanitary buildings and decent surroundings. Sweatshops and homework will be eliminated so far as these government contracts are concerned. Contracts can be canceled if any of these provisions are violated. Payments on contracts can be withheld when contractors engage in 'kick-back' practices or other violations. Such payments shall be made to the Secretary of Labor who will return them to the defrauded workers."

Enforcement.—In the interest of realizing the possible benefits under the Walsh-Healey Act for the working people, the convention urged "the provision of sufficient funds for the vigorous enforcement of the Act," requested the U. S. Department of Labor to establish regional offices for more effective administration, and urged the Department of Labor "to provide for the appointment of accredited workers' representatives to serve on the advisory committees of the departments and in each of its regional offices, so that the working people may have a voice in the administration of this Act enacted in their behalf."

The resolution in which the convention concurred said "the enactment of the Walsh-Healey Bill establishes the principle that those who enjoy the benefits of substantial contracts from the Federal Government must assure to their employes the privilege of working conditions of at least a minimum American standard."

Minimum Contracts Limit.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council pursue its declared intention of seeking amendments to the Walsh-Healey Act "which will reduce the amount of the minimum contracts covered to below the present figure of $10,000 and strengthen it in other particulars," and that in this connection the Executive Council "be instructed to give attention to the whole subject of fair conditions in government contracts

(Continued on Page 6)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 5)

and that it endeavor to strengthen existing legislation and, if necessary, to secure the introduction and enactment of further statutes for this purpose."

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Labor Representation.—The convention recommended that labor be represented on the boards of directors of public libraries and that the standing committee on education of every central labor union include such action in its general responsibility.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Boards of Education.—The convention declared that labor should be represented on public school boards of education, with responsibility for this inclusion being placed upon the standing committee on education of every central labor union.

Central Labor Unions—Standing Committees on Education.—The maintenance of a standing committee on education by every central labor union, "which shall be responsible for advancing educational opportunities for all children," was recommended by the convention, with especial emphasis placed upon the importance of the committee's seeing "that adequate appropriations are made for buildings and institutions and that the widest use be made of public school buildings."

Instruction in Management of Family Income.—The convention requested the AFL Executive Council to "investigate the feasibility of introducing into the public schools instruction in the business management of family income." It was sugested that "such instruction would tend toward a greater independence of the worker by assisting him in avoiding debt, or financial obligation beyond reasonable limits."

The action of the convention was based on a resolution which called attention to the lack of training in scientific money management in the public schools. It was claimed that experimental instruction along this line "has now made it possible for all children in the schools, all mothers in the homes, and all fathers who bring home the pay checks to use the same simple terms, and to understand the same few basic principles which underlie all successful money management."

PUBLIC WORKS.

Permanent Program.—The convention concurred with a resolution "approving a permanent public works program that will provide useful employment to all needy unemployed at trade union rates" and recommended immediate action by the incoming Congress to provide for the continuance of an enlarged works program.

Claiming that labor leaders and economists agree that the problem of unemployment is a permanent one and that principal responsibility for unemployment relief rests with the Federal Government, the resolution stated that the Works Progress Administration, the Government's major unemployment relief instrument, "is woefully inadequate to provide a minimum security for the 9,000,000 unemployed in the United States" and has reduced WPA workers since last March by nearly 1,000,000.

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION.

Civil Service.—A resolution was concurred in by the convention that all administrative, professional and other "white collar positions" in the Public Works Administration be placed under classified civil service regulations.

Pauper Test for Workers.—The convention concurred in a resolution recommending that unemployment relief under the Public Works Administration "be lifted from the plane of charity to that of administration of the inalienable rights of free individuals."

Prevailing Wage for Engineering Employes.—Acting upon information that the City of New York "fails to pay the prevailing rate of wages" to engineering workers employed in the construction of the city-owned independent subway system financed in part by a grant from the Public Works Administration, the convention placed itself on record as "unalterably opposed to the use of federal funds for payment of wages of employes as improper where such payments do not conform to the laws of Congress and the regulations issued pursuant thereto governing the use of federal funds," and urged "the President of the United States and the administrator of the Public Works Administration to direct full enforcement of the regulations regarding wages of engineering employes."

The resolution which the convention considered pointed out that the Congress of the United States in enacting the National Industrial Recovery Act on June 16, 1933, established the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, with provision for the payment of the prevailing rate of wages to all employes, and said that in accordance with this Act, Harold D. Ickes, Administrator of Public Works, issued regulations providing that "the payment of the prevailing rate of wages for services rendered be made to professional and semi-professional employes, and defined such terms to include technical engineers, architects and draftsmen."

PUBLICITY.

Just before the convention closed President Green informed the delegates it was estimated that representatives of the press from different cities had transmitted a million words by wire upon the activities of the convention compared with an estimate of 225,000 words in connection with the activities of the 1935 convention. "I know I voice your sentiments and feelings," President Green told the delegates, "when I express to the press our deep appreciation of the fine service rendered this convention."

PUERTO RICO.

Labor Legislation and Economic Conditions.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council continue to render assistance to the Free Federation of Working Men of Puerto Rico in improving economic conditions of the workers and securing labor legislation. The Council reported that a number of agreements negotiated by unions had secured better wages and conditions of employment and that the last session of the Puerto Rican Legislature approved many social and economic legislative measures to benefit working men and women, including a $6,000,000 public works program to relieve the unemployment situation.

Labor Representative in Reconstruction Administration.—The President of the American Federation of Labor was instructed by the convention "to renew his efforts to secure due representation of bona fide organized labor in the Executive Committee of the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration." The action of the convention reaffirmed the instructions given by the 1935 convention by which the A. F. of L. President was instructed "to communicate with the President of the United States to request and urge him to recommend and direct the Administrator of the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration to appoint a member of the A. F. of L. in the Island of Puerto Rico to represent organized labor" on the executive committee of the P. R. R. A.

Politics and Government.—The convention noted "with interest what the Free Federation of Working Men has to say about the move to give to Puerto Rico the status of an independent nation and the apprehension of the Puerto Rican workers as to their position if such independence is granted at this time," and recommended that the AFL Executive Council "watch the move in Congress instituted by Senator Millard Tydings to provide for a plebicite for the independence of the Island, and that until such time as there is every guarantee that any independent government set up in Puerto Rico will fully protect the rights of the Puerto Rican workers to organize and bargain collectively and to provide for the Puerto Rican people a truly democratic form of government, that such move for independence be resisted by the American Federation of Labor."

In addition, the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to request from the United States Congress and Federal authorities "in behalf of the organized labor movement of Puerto Rico and of the United States," an official declaration "in reference to the intention of the Government of the United States as to the final political status to be enjoyed by the Island of Puerto Rico," and to request the United States Congress "to pass a resolution authorizing and directing a referendum in Puerto Rico, without restrictions or limitations whatsoever," in order to give the people "the oppotrunity to decide upon the final political status of the Island," the referendum to include various plans advocated by different political parties and by labor organizations, "such as a territory, statehood, independence, self-government, or autonomy of the Canadian or Australian type, associated free state, or any other plan offered so that the people be enabled to make the proper selection according to their wishes, ideals or political beliefs."

In view of the "doubts and confusion" that have been created during the past year in the Island "because of the agitation for independence," the Executive Council was further instructed "to take action on this proposal as soon as possible."

Wagner-Ellenbogen Housing Bill.—Acting on information that "the immense majority of workmen's homes in Puerto Rico are inadequate and with bad structural conditions, lacking in many instances sanitary facilities," and that the "crowded districts with unhealthy surroundings and without adequate recreational facilities in which many workmen live at present are detrimental to health and to moral and physical conditions," the convention instructed the president of the American Federation of Labor to endeavor to have Puerto Rico included in the Wagner-Ellenbogen Housing Bill scheduled for consideration by the Seventy-fifth Congress.

Workers' Education.—Pointing out that lack of adequate funds prevented the proper functioning of workers' education in Puerto Rico, the convention instructed the president of the American Federation of Labor to "urge the proper federal authorities that workers education be carried on in Puerto Rico as it is done among the different states; that funds from the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration or from any other available source be allotted for this activity; that the program of workers' education be carried on under an adequate insular agency where organized labor would have due representation."

R

RADIO.

Broadcasting Zones.—The convention congratulated the AFL Executive Council for its influence in securing the repeal of section 302 of the Radio Act of 1934, providing for dividing the United States into zones for licensing broadcasting stations. The Council told the convention that "the change will be of great benefit to the listeners of WCFL broadcasts as it will give WCFL a 50,000 watt station to permit its service to reach the entire United States." The convention also instructed the AFL Executive Council "to lend its support to WCFL and to other radio enterprises of bona fide labor organizations in order that labor may further develop this splendid method of educating public opinion," and that "the American Federation of Labor and its component unions" make "the fullest possible use of radio."

Cleared Channel for Labor Broadcasting Station or Stations.—The convention petitioned the Congress of the United States "to pass the necessary legislation to assign or to have assigned the channel of 970 kilocycles as a cleared national channel, with unlimited time and with power equal to the maximum power assigned to any channel in the United States, to the owner or owners of the broadcasting station or stations approved by the recognized labor organizations, which, in the opinion of the Federal Communications Commission are most representative of Labor interests of the United States, and not to issue any license or licenses for the use of such frequency except with the written consent of suchso recognized labor organizations to any other person, association, corporation, organization or copartnership.

In addition, the convention authorized and directed the Executive Council "to take any and all steps necessary or advisable to effectuate the intent of this resolution and the action by this convention in furtherance thereof."

The question of the cleared radio channel for labor was brought before the A. F. of L. convention in a resolution calling attention to the fact that in 1931 the United States Senate passed a resolution requesting the Federal Radio Commission to give the labor movement one cleared channel for broadcasting, that the 1931 and 1934 A. F. of L. conventions had approved this principle, but that the officers of the Federation have not been successful in "procuring such a cleared national channel for its one and only Labor station, WCFL, located in Chicago on 970 kilocycles," and emphasizing that "the organized trusts and monopolies of the nation are making a desperate effort to secure the last section of the public domain of the air, excluding the 'Voice of Labor' and reducing this powerful medium of communication to the point of absolute subjection."

RADIO WORKERS.

The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council citing the work performed by the American Federation of Labor in connection with organizing the radio workers and with placing them in the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Council reported that in acting on a resolution referred to it by the Atlantic City convention directing the convening of a convention of delegates from all federal labor unions in the radio industry and granting the unions a national charter, the Council decided that the radio industry unions be transferred to the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Council pointed out that the American Federation of Labor had organized and established 14 federal labor unions of radio workers employed in radio manufacturing plants and established an organization called the National Council of Radio Workers under the direction and supervision of the A. F. of L. When the Executive Council "decided to place these federal labor unions of the radio workers under the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the officers and members of these federal labor unions of radio workers objected, and notwithstanding the Council's request through letters and conferences they refused." Later these federal labor unions, still refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive Council which granted jurisdiction over workers employed in radio manufacturing plants to the Electrical Workers Brotherhood, formed the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America organization.

"The American Federation of Labor organized the federal labor unions in the radio manufacturing industry," the Council said. "When a campaign of organization was started in this field, no semblance of organization existed in the radio industry. Many thousands of dollars were spent by the American Federation of Labor in organizing federal labor unions composed of radio workers. Notwithstanding this fact, those who participated in the formation of a dual organization and who persuaded the federal labor unions of radio workers to desert the American Federation of Labor and join with this dual organization have refused to recognize the authority of the Executive Council or the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers over radio workers employed in the manufacturing industry."

RAILROAD CONSOLIDATION.

Protection of Railroad Employes.—The AFL Executive Council in its report to the convention pointed out that proposals for railroad consolidation would increase the number of unemployed among railroad workers and deprive large numbers of them of their homes.

The enactment of the Wheeler-Crosser Bill, the Council said, would have mitigated this suffering by providing that "if the number of employes previously required be reduced as a result of the consolidation, provision should be made to provide for those displaced in comparable employment, under no less favorable conditions of employment, or to provide a fair and just dismissal compensation which shall equal at least two-thirds of the earnings to be anticipated for one year of continued service until they were reemployed," with adequate pensions for those eligible for retirement. The passage of the Wheeler-Crosser bill, the Council reported, was made unnecessary by an agreement covering most of its provisions between the railroad managers and the railway employes organizations.

In acting on this report the convention said it "deals with a striking example of militant and adroit use of both legislative and economic power by the railroad unions" and congratulated "the railroad unions upon this splendid demonstration of alert and resourceful procedure."

RAILWAY EMPLOYES DEPARTMENT.

The continued forward march of the Railway Employes Department "in the organization field as well as in securing the enactment of legislation beneficial to railway employes," was stressed by the convention.

In their report to the convention the AFL Executive Council emphasized the achievements of the organizing campaign of the Railway Employes Department and its affiliated organizations since June, 1933, when a relentless fight to wipe out company unionism on the railroads was begun. "Since June 1933, when this campaign was begun," the Council said, "representation has been established on 90 railroads, where company unions had been established following the Federated Shop Trades strike of 1922, the existing agreement has been taken over on 26 railroads and new agreements have been negotiated on 53 railroads, which is a total of 79 new railroads that have entered into contractual relations with the Railway Employes Department and its affiliated organizations."

The convention also emphasized the "success attending the joint action of the railway labor organizations in negotiating what is known as the National Coordination Agreement, which in a substantial way protects the employes who are displaced as the result of consolidated railway facilities."

RELIEF LEGISLATION.

Labor Provisions.—The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council on the labor provisions of the bill enacted by Congress appropriating $1,425,000,000 to be used in the discretion and under the direction of the President to provide direct relief and work relief on useful projects. The Council pointed out that all activities of the Government having supervision of projects coming under the relief appropriation bill are required not to knowingly "employ aliens legally within the limits of the United States," and that "the law also provides that the pay of persons engaged upon relief projects shall not be less than the prevailing rates of pay for work of a similar nature as determined by the Works Progress Administration with the approval of the President."

REMINGTON-RAND COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—In connection with data presented by the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department that on May 26, 1936, around 6,000 Machinists, Metal Polishers, Molders and members of the Federal Labor Unions in the plants of the Remington-Rand Company in Middletown, Conn.; Ilion, Syracuse, Tonawanda and North Tonawanda, N. Y., and Marietta and Norwood, Ohio, were forced to go out on strike against the plan of the company to destroy the trade union organization of its employes, and that these trade unionists are still on strike to protect their right to maintain their union organizations, the convention extended "its congratulations to the strikers for the heroic struggle they are carrying on in defense of their rights and of trade union principles," and requested the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor "to issue a circular to the trade union movement requesting affiliated national and international unions, state federations of labor and central labor councils to give every moral and all financial assistance possible."

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

Permanent Program.—The convention concurred with a resolution instructing the A. F. of L. "to attempt to secure at the coming session of Congress legislation continuing the Resettlement Administration as a permanent agency for the relief of low-income farmers and for the permanent elimination of conditions responsible for their low-income status; and providing appropriations to a revolving fund for the conduct of such a program, based upon: 1, Construction of farm communities for low-income farmers; 2, long-term amortization of the investment at low interest rates by the farm families; 3, continued technical assistance to such farms until, through the development of improved farm methods, they have been placed upon a sound economic basis."

The convention also concurred with a resolution instructing the American Federation of Labor "to support legislation for the adoption and continuation of the program of the Resettlement Administration as it has been developed during the past eighteen months; and to oppose legislation which would reduce this program into a mere lending of funds to individual farmers for the purchase of individual farms, without planned co-ordination, without technical assistance and without the establishment of community and cooperation activities."

ROOSEVELT, FRANKLIN DELANO.

Pan American Peace Conference.—The convention commended "the mission of the President of the United States to the Pan-American Conference in Buenos Aires, to further the cause of international understanding in the Western Hemisphere; it should prove of help in the furtherance of peace and good will among the other nations of the world. It is our hope further that at the Buenos Aires Conference consideration can be given to the 'material standards of the workers, their standard of living and the general improvement of the standard of living in the states of the American Continent,' as proposed in the Sixth Labor Conference held at Havana in 1928."

RUSSELL-KRAMER BILL.

A resolution calling on the American Federation of Labor to condemn the "Russell-Kramer Sedition Bill" and endeavor to prevent the enactment of it or similar bills by Congress was referred to the AFL Executive Council for study. The resolution claimed that the enactment of the bill "would seriously curtail the rights of free speech, free assemblage and free thought." The convention declared that if these charges were true, reference of the measure to the Executive Council "will be all that is necessary to invoke the most vigorous opposition to such invasions of rights."

S

SAFETY AT SEA.

After receiving the report of the AFL Executive Council that the law enacted by the second session of the Seventy-fourth Congress providing for equipping all passenger vessels having stateroom accommodations for 50 or more passengers with automatic sprinkler systems was one of the most needed and practical laws ever passed by Congress, the convention instructed the Executive Council "to continue its policy of support for such measures for the protection of passengers and seamen as are recommended and supported by bona fide unions interested in maritime working conditions." It was pointed out that "these sprinkler systems must protect all enclosed portions of vessels accessible to passengers or crews" and that such a system on the Morro Castle, which burned at sea, "would have saved every life on that boat."

SAFETY IN INDUSTRY.

In considering the report of the AFL Executive Council that five states—Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina and Rhode Island—had recently established state labor departments to administer laws enacted for the protection of the workers, and the Council's recommendation "that efforts be continued in the remaining states to set up state labor departments adequately staffed, financed, and equipped with full power to administer the labor laws and to make rules and regulations supplementing the laws," the convention expressed the opinion "that now is an opportune time for labor to press for remedial legislation," and commended "those state federations of labor that have taken the initiative, and urge all state federations of labor to exert themselves in the interest of placing safeguards around those employed in industry."

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

Fire Fighters' Right to Organize.—The convention condemned the action of the City Council and City Manager of Saginaw, Michigan, for issuing an order requiring "the disbanding of Saginaw Fire Fighters Local No. 422, thereby prohibiting the members of the Saginaw Fire Department from continuing their membership in organized labor," and instructed "the Executive Officers and the component parts of the American Federation of Labor to use every reasonable means to have the above mentioned order rescinded or withdrawn, in order that the Saginaw fire fighters may affiliate with the International Association of Fire Fighters without fear of jeopardizing their jobs."

SARDINE INDUSTRY.

High Seas Processing Plants.—The convention expressed itself as in accord with the purpose of a resolution opposing legislation threatening to destroy or damage the operation of high seas sardine processing plants and urging that no drastic legislation be passed until an adequate scientific investigation has been made, and requested the AFL Executive Council give such support to the subject matter as developments may warrant.

The resolution pointed out that the high seas processing vessels for California sardines operate off the coast of California, Oregon and Washington, that these "vessels employ 100 per cent union labor and have always dealt fairly and openly with their employes and the various represented unions," but that certain interests operating similar plants on the shore, which plants "have not been unionized," have undertaken to have the California State Legislature enact legislation against these high seas processing plants, have introduced similar legislation in the United States Congress and contemplate presenting bills to the coming sessions of the legislatures of California, Oregon, Washington and the Federal Congress.

SCOTTSBORO CASE.

In refusing to consider a resolution charging that "despite overwhelming evidence" to establish the innocence of "the Scottsboro boys" of the crime of which they had been accused they still are in prison, and "condemning the cruel persecution of these boys" and calling "for their unconditional freedom," the convention adopted the following report of the Resolutions Committee:

"In lieu of the resolution your committee finds that despite the action taken by the Alabama Courts in these cases, that the Supreme Court of the United States has, on two occasions reversed the procedure and the law as applied to them, an action clearly indicating that the nation's highest judicial tribunal was active and definite in protecting the constitutional safeguards of every citizen, regardless of color or of membership in a minority group.

"As a result of the United States Supreme Court's decision, these cases are to be brought to trial again in the Courts of Alabama.

"In view of this impending trial your committee is of the opinion that this convention should not inject itself upon a due process of the law, unless it becomes evident that the defendant's legal and constitutional rights are being invaded."

SEAMEN'S LEGISLATION.

Gratification was expressed by the convention because of the progress made in legislation benefiting American seamen, contained in the report of the AFL Executive Council, which cited the enactment of measures requiring 75 per cent of the crew exclusive of licensed officers on all vessels of the United States shall be native born or completely naturalized citizens of the United States; the three-watch system at sea for coal passers and sailors and the eight-hour day for all hands in port; a continuous discharge book with the provision that no entry of character or behavior marks will be permitted, thus preventing the books from being used for blacklisting purposes, and the ship subsidy bill raising minimum manning and wage standards for vessels receiving government aid and raising the citizenship requirements for crews, the measure to be administered by a martime commission of five members.

The convention recommended that the Executive Council and the maritime unions pursue efforts to acquaint the public with the fact that, "in this type of legislation, as in that with respect to railroads and other public services, 'the public interest is even more protected and advanced than is that of the workers directly affected.'"

With regard to the Maritime Commission the convention recommended "that the Executive Council bend efforts to see that the personnel of this board includes proper representation of the workers."

SEAMEN'S OUTLAW STRIKE.

The convention condemned the outlaw sporadic strikes of seamen on the Atlantic Coast, brought about through the misleading action of "certain self-styled radicals aided and abetted by Communists and other extremists." The strikes, it was stated, were engineered "notwithstanding the fact that the existing Atlantic agreement with the principal shipowners provides for preference in employment to members of the union and for the adjustment of any and all grievances by a joint board of conciliation."

SILICOSIS.

The convention concurred with a purpose of a resolution directing attention to the many deaths of miners due to silicosis and recommended that "federal as well as state legislation should be enacted to prevent silicosis as well as award compensation." In this connection the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to continue its cooperation with all state federations of labor to urge state legislatures to incorporate compensation for occupational diseases, including silicosis, in compensation laws which do not already contain this provision. The convention also instructed the Council to support federal legislation dealing with silicosis and other occupational diseases.

The Executive Council told the convention that silicosis is an occupational disease which "creates a form of tuberculosis by the inhalation of silica dust containing parts of silica, which is a quartz crystal," and that it is a "dreaded foe of all underground workers."

In pointing out the necessity for including compensation for silicosis and other occupational diseases in workmen's compensation laws, the Council said: "A victim of silicosis in Illinois obtained a $20,000 verdict in a damage suit, but the Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional. The Ohio Supreme Court also refused payment of compensation to a victim of silicosis because it was not included in the list of occupational diseases."

Federal Silicosis Committee.—In considering the problem of preventing silicosis and mitigating its ravages, the convention called attention to the fact "that a Federal Committee has been studying the subject during the present year, and will shortly make a report to the Department of Labor and the President of the United States, and that labor is represented on this committee by some of its outstanding representatives."

SIMPSON, LAWRENCE B.

The convention non-concurred with a resolution demanding the immediate release of Lawrence B. Simpson by the German Government and instructing the A. F. of L. to petition the United States Government to strengthen its representation in Simpson's behalf and to send a copy of the resolution to Secretary of State Cordell Hull "and to the Hitler government." The resolution stated that Simpson was a member of the International Seamen's Union employed on the S. S. Manhattan, that he was arrested by the German secret police while the Manhattan was in a German port, held by the German government 15 months without trial, finally convicted of the charge of possessing treasonable literature and sentenced to three years in jail.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

Amendments.—The AFL Executive Council was instructed by the convention to continue its studies of the Social Security Act "so that if necessary advisable amendments may be introduced."

Employes of Non-Profit Institutions.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council consider the exclusion of "employes of charitable, religious and non-profit institutions who receive low wages and in particular nurses and other hospital workers who perform tasks injurious to health" from the old age annuity and unemployment compensation sections of the Social Security Act with the view of endeavoring to have the Act amended to remove these inequalities.

Exemption of Labor From Taxes.—On the question of taxation to provide funds for the various provisions of the Federal Social Security Act, the convention said: "While we do not regard this Social Security Act as perfect, we do consider it a vital first step in lifting an intolerable burden of insecurity from wage-earners. There are changes that must be made in order to equalize the security that industry provides for those who participate in its operation and to work out how society may best assume its full responsibility in the light of administrative responsibility. Labor feels that the burden of insecurity should be lifted from its shoulders and that the costs should be a social responsibility. We believe that our federal government has the power to levy and collect taxes to be used to further social security purposes."

Grants to States for Mothers, Dependent Children, Aid to the Blind, and Vocational Rehabilitation.—With regard to the provisions of the Social Security Act concerning vocational rehabilitation, help for the blind, assistance for mothers and children and public health, the convention said: "In each and every phase of the Social Security program whether the problem be one of enactment, administration or enforcement, there must be full coöperation on the part of labor if these gains envisioned by labor are to be realized."

Puerto Rico.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to take the necessary steps before Congress to secure the application of the Social Security Act to Puerto Rico. This action was taken to remedy the reported ruling of the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, "as communicated to the President of the A. F. of L. under date of April 19, 1935," that "the provisions of the Social Security Act are not applicable to Puerto Rico." The convention was informed that the Third National Conference on Labor Legislation held in Washington, D. C., November 9 to 11, 1936, urged that the proper authorities undertake to secure an amendment to the Social Security Act by the Congress to extend the benefits of the Act "to the workers of Puerto Rico and all other territory comprising the United States of America."

Seamen.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council, "for the most sympathetic attention in connection with its consideration of the whole subject of social security legislation," a resolution endorsing an "adequate social security law for seamen" and directing the AFL Council and Legislative Committee "to render every assistance in the prompt enactment of such legislation." It was pointed out that the Social Security Act does not include seamen because "they have no state designation" and consequently "must come under social security legislation in a manner different from that of workers who have definite residence in the different states."

State Legislation.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive council "keep state federations of labor informed relative to state legislation required to secure the full benefits of the Social Security Act so that the workers in each state may receive the full benefit of the law."

Unemployed Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring the inclusion of all unemployed workers, in the group benefitting from the Federal Social Security Act, payments to begin with the commencement of unemployment and to continue for the entire duration of unemployment. Funds for this purpose would be raised by taxing incomes of more than $5,000 a year, accumulated wealth, inheritances, profits and dividends, but specifically banning the sales tax or tax upon the wages of workers receiving less than $5,000 a year.

While extoling the Social Security Act as a forward step in social legislation the resolution said it "is totally inadequate to protect labor against unemployment" and declared the main weakness of the law is that "it provides for only a limited amount of benefit for a limited period of time for a small section of American labor and compels employed workers to bear the burden through taxation of payrolls, which is passed on to the wage earner in the form of higher prices, and in many instances in the form of wage cuts."

Unemployment Compensation.—On the section of the Social Security Act providing compensation for unemployment the convention said: "Since unemployment compensation is the phase of the Social Security program which most directly affects the interests of the workers, and since legislation in this field seemingly involves more controversial issues than most of the other fields, it is only natural that the enactment of state laws for unemployment compensation has been considered by labor representatives as an issue of outstanding importance. Without question, the two most discussed questions which have arisen in the drafting of state unemployment compensation laws have been the question of pooled fund or reserve accounts and the question of merit rating. The position of the American Federation of Labor on both of these issues has been stated repeatedly. The American Federation of Labor endorses the pooled fund and is opposed to any form of merit rating. The establishment of reserve accounts prevents the operation of the fundamental principle underlying all insurance plans, namely, the broadest possible distribution of the risk. So far as merit rating is concerned, it need only be said that at this time there are no figures at hand on the basis of which a sound plan for merit rating can be established."

SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS' UNION.

The convention concurred with a resolution endorsing the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union "for its valiant efforts on behalf of the cotton field workers in the face of great obstacles." The resolution declared that the "Federation approves the principle that unionization of these workers affords the only instrumentality through which a solution of their problems can be worked out; that the Federation insist upon the preservation of constitutional civil liberties in the cotton areas so that organization of the field workers towards effective collective bargaining can continue in accordance with the true American tradition; that the Federation will recommend and support only those programs, legislative or otherwise, which give reasonable promise of securing for the cotton field workers a standard of living in keeping with that sought generally by the Federation for its membership; that the Federation urge its Executive Council to give serious consideration to all requests of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for aid and advice; that it request all affiliated bodies to do likewise whenever possible, and that it repeat its recommendation that its Executive Council take steps to bring about a thorough Federal investigation of the conditions of workers in these cotton areas with full publication of findings."

SPAIN.

Government. — The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution pledging the American Federation of Labor to "aid the democratically elected government of Spain," to throw the "weight of its power into exposing the role of the fascist countries whose anti-labor governments have been supporting the fascist rebels in Spain," and to agree to "cooperate with those groups and organizations that are rallying public opinion and financial and material help for the Spanish loyalists."

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA.

Victimization of Strikers.—The convention declared its full accord with the action voted by the 1936 California State Federation of Labor expressing belief in the innocence of union members convicted of "reckless and malicious possession of explosives" in connection with the strike called in March, 1935, against the oil tankers of the Standard Oil Company of California and other Pacific Coast oil concerns by the Pacific Coast District Committee of the International Seamen's Union of America," pledged "the prestige and resources of the American Federation of Labor to bring the facts of the 'Modesto Standard Oil Conspiracy' before the people of the United States," and instructed the officers of the convention to telegraph demands for the vindication and release of the prisoners to Governor Frank F. Merriam of California and to the California State Board of Prison Terms and Paroles.

In addition the convention declared itself in full accord with the action of the 1935 convention of the California State Federation of Labor in placing the products of the Standard Oil Company on the "we do not patronize list" and resolved that "adequate publicity of this action be given and all friends of labor be urged to refuse patronage to the enemies of labor."

The resolution which the convention considered pointed out that "the Standard Oil Company took the most active part in fighting the strikers by every vicious means for which this company has become notorious throughout the nation," that the nine union men "were arrested on the public highway by Standard Oil Company private detectives," and were subsequently charged, tried and convicted in Modesto, California, of reckless and malicious possession of explosives "wholly on the testimony of the paid stool pigeons and private detectives of the Standard Oil Company."

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR.

The convention said it was encouraging to note by the report of the AFL Executive Council that during 1935-36 five states—Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina and Rhode Island—had established strong labor departments which furnish "an important source of protection both for organized and unorganized workers, for men, women and children," and interpreted this movement which was backed by the state federations of labor as manifesting an increasing interest "in securing adequate labor legislation to protect the health of workers in industry from occupational diseases."

State Labor Legislation.—The convention urged all state federations of labor to undertake the passage of state legislation in conformity with the Federal Social Security Act, legislation to provide state laws modeled after the Wagner-Connery National Labor Relations Act, and amendments to state compensation laws to include full compensation for occupational diseases. The convention urged that the occupational disease amendments "be prepared in such a way as to protect the interests of those who have already become victims of occupational diseases."

STEEL INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN.

The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council which declared that the purpose of the Council "to inaugurate, manage, promote and conduct an organizing campaign among the iron and steel workers as directed by the Atlantic City convention was

(Continued on Page 7)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 6)

completely thwarted by the Committee for Industrial Organization."

The Council gave the convention a detailed account of its plans for the organizing campaign and its appeal for $750,000 to carry on the work. The report stated that the Committee for Industrial Organization injected itself into the campaign with an offer to contribute $500,000 to the organizing fund if the American Federation of Labor would contribute $1,500,000. The offer was accompanied with conditions which would have required the Council to surrender its "right to formulate plans for an organizing campaign in the steel industry in accordance with its best judgment, circumstances and conditions as they existed and the traditional organizing policies of the American Federation of Labor."

The Council said that later the officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers "rejected the offer of the American Federation of Labor to organize, conduct and manage a campaign of organization in the steel industry;" accepted membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization, and made an agreement with the C. I. O. for an organizing campaign whereby the officers of the Amalgamated Association "subjected themselves and the organization they represent to the complete domination and control of the chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization," thus completely frustrating the endeavor of the Executive Council to carry out the instructions of the Atlantic City convention.

STOVE MOUNTERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

Change of Title.—The convention concurred in the refusal of the AFL Executive Council to grant the application of the Stove Mounters International Union to change its title to the "Allied Stove Mounters and Stove Processors International Union." The Council said the change of name was opposed by the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes. The convention nonconcurred in a resolution offered by the delegate of the Stove Mounters International Union that the action of the Executive Council be overruled and the change in name authorized. The convention declared that although statements of those advocating the change denied intention to extend the jurisdiction of the International Union, nevertheless it was the judgment of the convention that the change would lead to "disputes with closely related organizations because of the all embracing scope of the words 'Allied' and 'Processors' in the title requested."

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Authority to Declare Acts of Congress Unconstitutional.—The practice of the United States Supreme Court of rendering decisions holding laws enacted by the United States Congress unconstitutional came before the convention in four resolutions which held that the Supreme Court had usurped its power, that Congress should assert its full legislative prerogative to enact legislation without judicial interference and that the Constitution should be amended depriving the Court of the right to exercise this power.

One resolution "authorized" and "directed" the AFL Executive Council to have drafted and introduced in the United States Congress a Federal amendment for submission to the states "conferring upon Congress such powers as may make it possible to deal nationally with problems that are national in scope," especially problems "affecting the right of the workers to organize for their protection free from interference and restraint, to achieve some measure of security against the hazards of unemployment and indigency in old age, to establish in industry minimum wages and maximum hours of employment, to obtain relief from intolerable economic conditions, and to enjoy the benefits and opportunities under social conditions to which their industry and labor entitles them." In addition, the resolution directed the Council "to set up such machinery as it may deem advisable to secure popular support for such amendment in the states."

Pointing out that the resolutions dealt with "the power assumed by the United States Supreme Court to declare legislation unconstitutional" and called "for action by Congress, or an amendment to the Constitution, which would place a limitation upon the United States Supreme Court's authority over the constitutionality of legislation," the convention concurred with the following recommendation of the Resolutions Committee:

"If there is to be Federal legislation covering labor and living standards; if a broad program of social legislation is to be effected, such legislation must be either framed to meet with the approval of the United States Supreme Court, or the power to declare such legislation unconstitutional must be limited through a constitutional amendment.

"This problem has been considered by previous conventions and action has been taken giving instructions to the Executive Council. It has been the subject of much consideration, especially during recent years by other groups vitally interested in the dealing with the obstacles which have prevented the passage of Federal legislation to improve the welfare of the mass of the people.

"As there are a number of different proposals relative to the phraseology of a constitutional amendment, and as there are other proposals including Congressional regulation of the powers of the lower Federal courts, your committee believes it advisable that these resolutions be referred to the Executive Council so that the entire subject may receive their careful study and appropriate action."

T

TAMPA CANNERY STRIKE.

Picketing Restrictions.—The convention condemned the action of the Tampa police for arresting the president of the newly organized Tampa Cannery Employes Union on strike against their employer. The union's president was discharged with no complaint lodged against him after being held for three hours, but that other strikers were charged with "disturbance of the peace and inciting to riot" in connection with picketing. The special committee of the convention appointed to investigate the matter declared "that while picketing is permitted it is not permitted directly in front of the plant," pickets being "required to walk at the opposite side of the street. This of course makes picketing ineffectual and in the opinion of your committee is a restriction and interference with the right to picket."

The convention expressed itself as "opposed to any restriction or interference with the full exercise of the right to peaceably picket," and requested the Tampa Central Trades and Labor Assembly "to continue the interest of labor in this matter, to gain full justice for those now awaiting trial and to give such other advice and assistance to these strikers as lies within its power so that the newly formed local union may grow and function to bring about an improvement in the conditions of these workers who in the past have been forced to work under deplorable conditions."

TAMPA FLOGGING CASES.

The convention concurred with a resolution protesting against the action of Florida authorities in having brought to trial only five of the eleven men indicted in connection with the "kidnaping, flogging, tarring and feathering of Joseph A. Shoemaker, Eugene F. Poulnot and Dr. S. J. Rogers in Tampa on November 30, 1935, which resulted in the tragic death of Shoemaker," and urged "prompt and vigorous prosecution of the balance of these cases to the end that full justice may be obtained and that such action shall serve as a warning to all terrorist groups intent on destroying our fundamental American liberties."

TAXATION.

Effect on Enterprise and Employment.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to "undertake a study of the base and structure of taxation—national, state and local—with a view to determining the deterrent effect of present taxes upon enterprise and employment, and recommend such changes as will produce the maximum tax revenue with the minimum burden upon labor, industry and the consuming public." The resolution in which the convention concurred said "the continuing search for new sources of tax revenue to pay the constantly increasing cost of government—federal, state and local—has woven into the tax base inequalities, duplications, conflicts and grave injustices to the taxpayers."

Exemption of Investments in Homes and Home Renovation.—The convention instructed the AFL officers and Executive Council to make a study of the question of exempting home owners and the building and renovation of homes from the income tax as a measure to stimulate the building industry and at the same time help to remove the serious situation of unemployment, which is especially large in the heavy industry, including the building construction industry, and to "sponsor necessary amendment to the income tax and other tax laws in order to relieve the millions of workers now unemployed" in those industries.

TEACHERS.

District of Columbia.—The AFL Executive Council was commended by the convention for assistance rendered in securing the passage by Congress of the Teachers Salary Act for the District of Columbia which raised the grade of vocational schools in the District "from the present elementary school level to the rank of junior high schools as to salary schedule" and empowered the Board of Education "to establish occupational schools on the elementary school level for pupils not prepared to pursue vocational courses in the trade or vocational schools, and also to carry on trade or vocational courses on the senior high school level or in senior high schools."

Salaries.—Declaring that "the purpose of our educational system is the preparation of our youth to cope with and solve their economic and political problems," and that it is "highly essential that their instruction be entirely free of any consideration other than the search for truth," the convention stated that to achieve this purpose "those entrusted with their teachings must be economically free," and that this economic freedom "requires security of tenure during efficient and honorable service and compensation commensurate with the service rendered." In conformity with these principles the convention adopted a resolution "favoring a living wage for all public school teachers, and the enactment of tenure laws in the several states which shall provide that teachers shall not be dismissed except for just cause and in a manner established by law."

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES.

Declaring that "since there are no unified and comparable sources of data on output, employment and actual hours in manufacturing industries, we have at the present time no way of determining beyond a rough approximation the year to year changes in labor productivity in manufacturing industries," the convention approved various surveys on this subject conducted by both government and private agencies. "Labor," the convention said, "is vitally concerned with the continuation of this work because its welfare has been directly affected by the displacement of men by machines. Organized labor is determined to make sure that technological unemployment is not dealt with blindly in the years to come. It realizes that only sound and comprehensive fact-finding will make it possible to chart the employment opportunities of the future."

TECHNOLOGICAL UNEMPLOYMENT.

Legislative Inquiry.—The convention commended the activities of the AFL Executive Council in regard to a Federal investigation of technological unemployment. Senator Hatch of New Mexico, the Council said, introduced a resolution, after a conference with President Green who explained the necessity of the measure, providing for an investigation of the number of persons unemployed by reason of the use of labor saving devices, mechanical and otherwise, in operation in the United States, and also an investigation of the unemployment relief situation. A bill covering the same subject matter was introduced by Representative Palmisano of Maryland. A representative of the American Federation of Labor testified as to the necessity of legislation providing for the inquiry.

TENEMENT HOUSE LAWS.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution demanding the "strict and immediate enforcement of the existing tenement house laws in all states," and that local labor housing committees be set up to cooperate with and aid in the formation of tenant groups who have as one of their principles the strict enforcement of tenement house laws.

THIRTY-HOUR WEEK.

Directing attention to the enormous increase in the output of labor under machine production and the alarming persistency of the long work week and low wages and a large unemployed army the convention reaffirmed its position that the wider observance of the five-day week and the six-hour day is the only means of mastering the unemployment problem and protecting society against future depressions.

"There is only one side to this case," the convention declared. "Every fact and factor having to do with its consideration argues for shorter hours and higher living standards as the one and only way to insure economic health."

Taking into consideration these facts, the convention reaffirmed its endorsement of the "five-day week and the six-hour workday without any reduction in the hourly, daily or weekly pay," declared this objective of the five-day week and six-hour day the "paramount objective" of the convention, and instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to spare no effort in enlisting the support of all the people in its behalf and in giving the widest scope, direction, publicity and inflexible purpose to this program."

In addition, the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council "to take such action as will result in the introduction of a five-day week, six-hour day bill in the next session of Congress and that they devote their best efforts to secure its enactment into law."

THIRTY-HOUR WEEK BY LAW.

Black-Connery Bill.—The convention reaffirmed its support of the Black-Connery Thirty-Hour Week Bill as a major remedy to create work opportunities for millions of the unemployed and resolved "that all of the international and local unions be circularized and exhorted to urge the introduction and adoption of a thirty-hour bill in Congress."

TRADE UNION AMALGAMATION.

International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes—International Molders' Union of North America.—The convention concurred in the report of the AFL Executive Council in its preliminary steps to bring about amalgamation of the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes and the International Molders' Union of North America. The Molders' organization voted to accept the plan but the Foundry employes rejected it by a referendum vote. Following the amalgamation rejection, the Council reported it had continued efforts "to promote understanding as well as settlement of the differences which exist between the officers and members and the two organizations involved." The convention recommended that the Council continue its efforts in this direction.

TRADE UNIONS.

Motion Picture Industry.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution instructing the President of the American Federation of Labor to invite representatives of a number of international unions connected with the motion picture industry "to a conference for the purpose of discussing and devising plans for the accomplishment of union recognition and the union shop for all of the trades involved in the production of motion pictures," with the provision that "local representatives from Hollywood or Los Angeles be invited to attend such conferences, the expenses of such attendance to be borne by local unions."

The resolution said that five international unions have a union shop agreement with the motion picture industry in Hollywood and Los Angeles which provides for the exclusive employment of union members and their trade, that in addition there are a number of distinct studio unions chartered by the five international unions and one federal union chartered directly by the American Federation of Labor, but that, although most of the men represented by these trades are enrolled in the local unions, "it has thus far been impossible to bring about a recognition of these organizations by the managements of the motion picture studios, which is an extreme handicap."

The resolution added that "this same condition applies to several local unions, a portion of whose members only are employed in the motion picture business," and stated that "to the representatives of these non-recognized unions it appears that a plan could be worked out that would accomplish the complete unionization and recognition thereof in and by the motion picture industry."

Negro Workers. — The convention non-concurred with two resolutions protesting against discrimination relative to Negro workers by trade unions and making mandatory certain policies designed to end the discrimination.

One resolution instructed "all unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to accept into its membership members of the Negro race on an equal basis with white workers" with the guarantee that "they shall have full rights within the organization to run for office and participate in all union affairs," and demanded "equal opportunity of employment at equal wages for the Negro workers in all trades, crafts and occupations."

The other resolution demanded the "elimination of the color bar from all constitutions and rituals of national and international unions, making it mandatory that if any union affiliated with the A. F. of L. with color clauses in their constitutions or rituals fail to eliminate the said clauses in their next convention and report the same to the Executive Council, that the said national or international stands automatically expelled from the A. F. of L." The resolution also made it mandatory upon central and state bodies, departments, national and international federal unions to create an anti-race prejudice committee to hold hearings on the extent and nature of discriminatory practices against Negro workers in their own unions and among the unions in their locality, declared that the failure of an international union to make provision in its constitution against race discrimination in requirements for membership was equivalent to the action of international unions in setting up a dual organization to the American Federation of Labor, and claimed that therefore the AFL Executive Council would be justified in taking disciplinary action against such unions.

In recommending non-concurrence with the resolution, the Resolutions Committee report, which the convention adopted, said:

"The American Federation of Labor has, from the beginning, energetically endeavored to overcome all forms of discrimination, and has vigorously opposed any distinction in citizenship and citizen rights because of race or color.

"The discussion of this subject in our conventions, the influence of our national and international unions have accomplished most practical results. The method which our trade union movement has applied has been that of education. We have led trade unionists to see the dangers to free institutions whenever discrimination was permitted to exist. Our American trade union movement at its beginning adopted a fundamental principle, that it would recognize all wage earners as being equal in all of their rights, regardless of racial origins or religious and political beliefs.

"Your committee is opposed to any other methods than those of education, for prejudices cannot be eliminated by any other method. For this valid reason your committee recommends non-concurrence with the resolutions."

Patronage of Union Establishments.—The convention re-affirmed previous declarations "calling upon trade unionists everywhere to patronize union establishments." This action was taken instead of adopting a resolution introduced by delegates representing the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America, requesting the AFL Executive Council to discipline affiliated organizations for "holding their affairs in non-union houses, provided a union house is available."

TRADE UNION BENEFITS.

The convention emphasized the importance of trade union benefits which the Executive Council in its annual report said amounted during the year 1935 to $26,168,606.16, classified as follows: Death benefits, $12,650,202.84; sick benefits, $1,047,010.93; unemployment benefits, $3,356,276.11; old age benefits, $3,684,964.04; disability benefits, $3,379,275.71; miscellaneous benefits, $1,990,786.53. The convention pointed out that in addition to the trade union benefits listed by the Executive Council "there were many others represented in the form of improved working conditions, increased wages, shorter hours of labor, legislative achievements, and "other activities too numerous to mention."

TYDINGS-McCORMICK BILL.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution condemning the Tydings-McCormick Bill and urging the prevention of the introduction of the measure in the original amended form and similar bills during the Seventy-Fifth Congress. The resolution said that the passage of the bill "would seriously curtail the rights of labor in protesting the use of the National Guard in strikes and in opposing war."

U

UNEMPLOYED.

Organization.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution approving the efforts of "the unemployed to organize to secure better standards upon relief and work relief, and for social security for themselves and their families, and we urge the closest possible cooperation between the local, state and international unions of the American Federation of Labor and the organized unemployed in order that the social and economic interests of both groups may be promoted and advanced."

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Health and Decency Standards.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council and urged all local state and international unions "to co-operate to the end of raising relief standards to a level sufficient for the health and decency of those unemployed."

Long-Time Program.—Confronted with the existence of millions of unemployed along with business recovery approaching normality, the convention visioned the continuance of a jobless army and emphasized the necessity for planning a long-time program of relief for those whom industry does not employ.

Means Test.—The convention declared that the AFL Executive Council and local, state and international unions should "use every effort to secure the elimination of the means test as a condition for relief" of the unemployed and also declared that the Council and local, state and international unions should cooperate with the organizations of the unemployed to secure this objective. It was charged in the resolution that "the moral and physical suffering caused through inadequate relief is increased because of the means test" which the unemployed "are forced to undergo."

Migratory Workers—Residence Requirements.—A resolution expressing opposition "to residence relief requirements for migratory workers" was adopted by the convention. It was pointed in the resolution that many members of agricultural unions "are forced to move about the country to make enough to keep body and soul together during the growing season," that "at the end of the season our farm laborer very often finds himself in a locality where he has no friends and no money," and that "the residence requirements for relief in various states denies any means of support to thousand's of workers."

Minimum Needs.—Pointing out that industry is by no means ready to care for the 3,264,000 still dependent on emergency work relief and that local governments are not able to provide direct relief for the rest of the needy unemployed, the convention said: "A standard of relief must be maintained which keeps relief families in health and will provide for necessary clothing, rent and medical care in addition to food."

Social Security Measures.—In emphasizing the necessity for a long-time program of relief for the army of unemployed workers and their dependents the convention stressed the necessity for accepting the principle of Federal responsibility wherever states and localities are failing to provide for the minimum needs of the unemployed. Adequate fulfillment of this responsibility, the convention said, requires unemployment insurance, with relief funds beyond the insured period, supplemented by a planned program for work on public projects; and adequate public employment exchange in each locality to link the workers seeking jobs and the jobs seeking workers; old-age pensions sufficient to provide for families where the bread-winner is beyond employable age and for individuals over this age; mothers' pensions to provide for mothers of minor children who, through widowhood or other reasons are left without income; health insurance and disability pensions for families needing relief because of illness and disability, with special provisions for those handicapped by chronic illness.

UNEMPLOYMENT REMEDIES.

Federal Work Relief for All Needy Employables.—The convention concurred in a resolution urging the Federal Government "to assist in relief to those unemployed by expanding the Federal works program to absorb all employables in need and by resuming direct relief grants to states." The resolution said that the action of the Federal Government on November 1, 1935, withdrawing contributions to direct relief of the unemployed, and thus throwing relief back to the states and local communities, resulted in a "catastrophic drop" in actual relief given, with disastrous consequences to more than 5,000,000 unemployed persons relying on direct relief for their support.

Government Work Relief Agencies.—Stressing the fact that the mechanization and consolidation of industry and the application of speed-up methods have greatly reduced the opportunities for employment and kept millions of workers jobless and that the shorter work week is the only feasible device for providing work for the unemployed and maintaining "purchasing power upon which the continued prosperity of employer, employe and consumer alike depend," the convention endorsed "the continued maintenance of Government work relief through the Public Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps and such other agencies, until such time as the 30-hour week or its equivalent, with no reduction of wages, is established on a national scale for the re-employment of the millions who are eagerly seeking self-sustaining employment in private commerce and industry."

Limiting Weekly and Daily Hours of Work.—The convention commended for the "careful consideration of every person interested in the economic welfare of the workers" the report on "wages and hours" made by the AFL Executive Council, which pointed out that despite "increased productivity per worker per hour" employers had lengthened the average work week in manufacturing from 34.7 hours in the beginning of 1934 to 40 hours by May 1935, thus drastically "eliminating a large number of job opportunities for those still unemployed, and recommended shorter hours as a remedy for this situation.

"Industry cannot and will not absorb the unemployed unless it creates more job opportunities by limiting weekly and daily hours of work," the Council said. "The shorter work week and the six-hour day furnish the real solution to the insistent problem of unemployment. It is the responsibility that private industry must accept in order to give the necessary balance to economic expansion. Economic stability cannot be attained by Government spending. Industry's obligation to bring about such stability is more imperative in these crucial days of transition than ever before. We know only too well that unless this is done current recovery will end in a greater disaster than we have yet known. Shortening of the hours of work is the correct answer to the problem we are facing today."

Shorter Work Day and Work Week.—The convention approved the following statement on unemployment and unemployment relief contained in the introduction to the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council: "While unemployment in our own country is being reduced and significant social and economic changes are taking place, fundamental change and social upheavals are the common experience of people residing in nations abroad. The ultimate outcome of the operation of all the forces which make for social and political changes cannot now be foreseen. We must await patiently the developments which periodically take place before we know or understand what will be the final culmination of events. We know with a feeling of certainty and individual and collective assurance that the real remedy for unemployment can only be found through the application of the shorter work-day and shorter work-week in private industry. Necessary adjustments in the work period as it applies to the number of hours worked per day and the number of days worked per week, must correspond with the technical changes which constantly take place in industry through which the efficiency of the individual worker is constantly increased."

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

Acting on information submitted by the AFL Executive Council regarding the inaccuracy of unemployment estimates, which make it impossible to provide adequately for the millions of unemployed and their families and to make "the industrial adjustments necessary to assure them productive employment in the future," the convention expressed the opinion "that adequate information regarding the fluctuation in industry will never be satisfactorily dealt with until legislation is enacted which will require employers to cooperate with Government agencies in filing data so necessary in dealing with the problem of unemployment," and directed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to give further study to this question and, if deemed advisable, to prepare suitable legislation for submission to the next Congress."

UNION LABEL

Ready-to-Wear Men's and Boys' Clothing.—The convention concurred in the decision of the Executive Council that the "label of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America does not have the endorsement or approval of the American Federation of Labor, and that the president of the Federation is directed to immediately advise all internationals, state and city central bodies, as well as organizers, that the label of the United Garment Workers of America is the only approved and recognized union label on all men's and boys' ready-to-wear, made-to-measure, tailored-to-the-trade clothing, uniforms, pants, collars, and shirts of all kinds, pajamas, shorts, bathrobes, white goods, leatherlined coats, playsuits, men's and boys' overalls, windbreakers, and on all similar clothing for men and boys."

In justification of its decision, the Council told the convention that on October 14, 1936, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America announced that it was then using and intended to continue using and issuing a label of its own, which the Council held "is a clear violation of the existing agreement with the United Garment Workers of America which formed the basis for granting a charter to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America by the Federation in 1933."

Union Label Brushes.—The convention urged all members of the A. F. of L. affiliated unions to purchase union label brushes. It was pointed out that the New York City Brush Makers Union, which has union label agreements with certain manufacturers of industrial paint brushes, is a member of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

Union Label Products.—A resolution declaring that "we support all products bearing the union label" was adopted by the convention. The resolution pointed out that the purchasing of products produced by unorganized workers paid low wages undermines the scale of wages of organized workers, that a low scale of wages diminishes the purchasing power of the worker, who is also a consumer, and that a low purchasing power in turn increases unemployment and misery to the workers.

UNION LABEL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

The convention endorsed the work of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor for its activities in promoting the demand for union-made articles and union services, with especial emphasis on the Department's publicity and advertising campaign, which included wide distribution of the Union Label Directory, preparation of news releases, editorials, fillers and cartoons for labor weeklies, monthly labor journals and other publications, union label advertising in many weekly and daily papers, distribution of mats of all union labels, shop cards and buttons to labor newspapers and central labor bodies for the use of display advertising, and the widespread use of the radio to carry the union label message from coast to coast and over eighty independent local broadcasting stations whose facilities were used by central labor unions and other local labor groups.

In addition, a number of United States Senators asked permission to print union label addresses in the Congressional Record and mailed over 60,000 copies of such talks to their constituents. Moreover, considerable information was given to college professors for use in their economics courses and to high school and college students.

Pointing out that the expanding field of the union label is illustated by the fact that over 1,000,000 farmers have become interested in the union label and are now demanding it on their wearing apparel and other purchases, the convention said:

"The atmosphere of this convention has been rife with declarations and predictions that organized labor is now entering upon an era of the widest recognition it has ever known; that the worker is to be relieved from the forces which have exploited him in the past; that the larger heritage of freedom of which he has so long been dreaming, will soon be translated into the realities which are his lawful birthright. The union label is the morning-star of that approaching dawn."

UNION-MADE GOODS

Cement.—In order to assist the newly formed National Council of United Cement Workers in their campaign to organize all the unorganized workers in the cement industry the convention recommended that the A. F. of L. unions everywhere that the officers of the American Federation of Labor to urge the exclusive use of union-made cement and to request the labor press to support the campaign.

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

Contribution to Organization Made by the American Federation of Labor.—The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council citing the work performed by the American Federation of Labor in establishing the United Automobile Workers International Union. The report said that when the A. F. of L. inaugurated its organizing work in the automobile manufacturing industry in 1932 "there was not a single local organization existing" in that industry. "Hundreds of federal labor unions composed of automobile workers were formed," and these were merged into the United Automobile Workers International Union when the charter for an international union was granted by the A. F. of L. on August 26, 1935. The A. F. of L. expended approximately $250,000 in organizing this new union of United Automobile Workers.

"Early in July, 1936," the Council said, "this organization became a member of the Committee for Industrial Organization. Following the decision of the Executive Council upon charges filed against organizations holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization, it elected to withdraw from the American Federation of Labor and to remain in affiliation with the Committee for Industrial Organization. This action was taken by the officers of the United Automobile Workers International Union, notwithstanding the devoted service and assistance given this organization by the American Federation of Labor."

UNITED RUBBER WORKERS OF AMERICA.

Contribution to Organization Made by the American Federation of Labor.—The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council citing the work performed by the American Federation of Labor in establishing the United Rubber Workers of America. The report said that when the A. F. of L. inaugurated an organizing campaign in the rubber manufacturing industry in 1932 "there was no organization of any kind" in that industry. Federal labor unions were established, organizers were assigned by the A. F. of L. to carry on organizing work, and the headquarters was set up at Akron, Ohio. When a sufficient number of federal labor unions were formed, a charter was issued to the United Rubber Workers of America by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

"The record shows," the Council reported, "that the American Federation of Labor spent approximately $200,000 in organizing and establishing this international union of rubber workers. When the charter was granted, a headquarters, with office furniture and equipment, was turned over to these newly elected officers by the American Federation of Labor. In addition, almost $2,000 which had been accumulated by the Rubber Workers Council which had been formed by the American Federation of Labor, was turned over to the new international union of rubber workers. Later, a financial contribution of $1,000 was made, and following that another contribution of $1,000, to assist them in a strike which had been inaugurated in Akron. Notwithstanding this assistance and financial help given this International Union of United Rubber Workers, its officers elected to withdraw from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and accept membership with the Committee for Industrial Organization."

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT LAW.

Independent Administration. — The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council, with the direction that the Council consult with unions having membership under the Civil Service Retirement Act, a resolution endorsing the position of the delegates from the Civil Service unions that the "administration of the Civil Service Retirement Law be placed in the hands of an independent establishment responsible directly to the President." The resolution pointed out that the administration of the Retirement Law "carries responsibility for more than $300,000,000 largely contributed by the employes and for individual accounts and records of more than 400,000 workers, thus requiring high specialized knowledge and administrative efficiency," which duties and responsibilities "carry with them the necessity of executive independence and undivided responsibility."

Thirty-Year Optional Retirement.—The convention reaffirmed the declaration of former conventions instructing the AFL Executive Council "to cooperate with affiliated Government employes' organizations to secure the enactment of a thirty-year optional retirement law and a widows' annuity." The resolution on this subject, presented by delegates representing the unions in the Government service, emphasized the benefits of the Civil Service Law, but said it "would be more humanitarian and also more efficient if retirement were optional with each employe and provisions made for widows of deceased annuitants."

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

Child Labor Amendment.—The convention gave unanimous approval to the report of the AFL Executive Council on its activities to secure ratification of the Federal Child Labor Amendment by the 24 state legislatures which have not already approved the amendment. Pointing out that 43 state legislatures would meet in January and that favorable action on the part of only 12 of them are required to make the amendment a part of our fundamental law the convention urged every labor organization in the states where the amendment has not been ratified to write letters to the members of the legislatures after they meet and insist upon consideration of the amendment.

The convention recognized with appreciation and as indicative of social progress the action of the convention of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, in New Orleans, May 12, 1936, in unanimously adopting a resolution to extend the efforts of the Order to secure the adoption of the Federal Child Labor Amendment and the mobilization of the Order's funds to achieve this objective.

Labor Amendment.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council urging "the prompt passage of a constitutional amendment which will permit the Federal Executive and Congress to establish minimum standards of wages, maximum hours of work, regulation of work load, safeguards to regulate the employment of women and minors, rights of collective bargaining, and preventive measures to minimize the dangers of poisonous fluids or gases in any trade or industry or agriculture or banking, the materials, processes, or products of which enter interstate commerce the "due process" clause shall be specifically restricted to the due observance of appropriate legislative and executive consideration, impartially and public purpose of such laws; and which will waive the present restrictions of the Federal Constitution upon concurrent or supplemental state legislation to achieve these purposes within purely intrastate business."

The resolution added "that in the failure to accomplish the speedy passage of such constitutional amendment, the state legislatures be urged in the interests of public health and safety, to establish a quarantine against the importation of any products manufactured or processed in other states, where unfair exploitation of labor is tolerated."

The resolution pointed out that the majority of the United States Supreme Court in invalidating the National Industrial Recovery Act, the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the Guffey Coal Act "have interpreted the Federal Government to be constitutionally impotent to protect the people of the several states from the consequences of economic anarchy," and that in invalidating the New York Minimum Wage Act the majority of the Supreme Court have also declared "that even state governments cannot establish standards which would protect the property or human values of an individual's labor."

UNITED STATES EMPLOYES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION.

Independent Administration. — The convention reaffirmed the declarations of previous conventions in favor of maintaining the present independent administrative status of the United States Employes Compensation Commission. "The administration of this highly important workmen's compensation law," the convention said, "has been such as to lead the employes to look with disfavor upon its absorption into some larger and less specialized establishment."

(Continued on Page 8)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 7)

UNITED STATES UNEMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

Application to Puerto Rico.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to request the United States Congress to enact legislation extending the benefits of the United States Employment Service (Wagner-Peyser Act) to Puerto Rico. It was pointed out that "there is no place in the world where American citizens live where the employment service is more badly needed than in Puerto Rico," that the Act of Congress creating the U. S. Employment Service does not authorize the maintenance of a system of public employment offices in Puerto Rico, and that the appropriation for the local employment service bureau functioning in the Insular Department of Labor "is so limited that no effective work can be accomplished."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

The convention urged the expansion of university extension work so that adult education may be easily available for working men and women who constitute 78 per cent of the population.

V

VIGILANTISM.

Holding that "vigilantism is becoming more and more prevalent each year and more vicious in its attacks on organized labor with the aim of destroying trade unions and subjugating labor to the will of the employers," the convention condemned the activities of "terroristic organizations that take the law into their own hands." The resolution with which the convention concurred pointed out that "law enforcement bodies frequently have failed to cope with vigalantes and in some cases have condoned and encouraged their lawless actions." The convention also instructed the AFL Executive Committee to "set up a committee or utilize existing local committees for the purpose of defending the rights of labor against vigilante attacks."

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

Congressional Appropriation. — The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in supporting a Congressional appropriation of $12,000,000 for the further development of vocational education in the several states and territories on the basis of 50 per cent matching the appropriations by state or local funds until June 30, 1942, with a 10 per cent increase annually until 1946 and thereafter until it becomes 100 per cent.

Local Advisory Committees. — Emphatically declaring that neither committees nor commissions will avail in preventing the use of vocational funds against the interests of the workers unless labor "takes the initiative to see that standards are upheld and the interests of wage-earners protected," the convention recommended "that state federations of labor and central labor unions take steps to set up local advisory committees to advise on all plans of vocational education."

Misuse of Federal Funds.—Pointing out that the American Federation of Labor was instrumental in securing the enactment of the Smith-Hughes Act and favored in the last Congress an appropriation of $12,000,000 to advance this work in the several states and territories, the convention recalled that the 1935 convention had protested against the "use of vocational funds for training strikebreakers," with the result that the Commissioner of Education authorized an advisory committee to plan against the recurrence of this and other abuses.

Permanent Advisory Committee on Vocational Education Regulations.—The convention approved the appointment of a Permanent Advisory Committee on Vocational Education Regulations to the Commissioner of Education to devise and apply regulations for the administration of vocational education in order to prevent misuse of funds in the training of workers. This action was taken in recognition of the efficient work performed by the advisory committee set up by the Commissioner of Education following the protest by the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor against the "use of vocational funds for training strikebreakers." The convention said the committee, consisting of John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor; George L. Googe, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, and Emil Rieve, of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, prepared regulations to safeguard the use of federal funds appropriated for vocational education.

Strike Breakers.—The convention approved the action of the Executive Council in pointing out that the officials who administered the Federal vocational law were not carrying out its provisions and in securing a statement from the Commissioner of Education that "none of the funds would be used to teach strike breakers or defeat in any way the policy outlined in the Smith-Hughes Act."

Vocational Education Commission.—The convention approved the appointment of the Vocational Education Commission by President Roosevelt to study the existing program of Federal aid for vocational education in connection with the George-Deen Act passed by the last Congress increasing appropriations for the extension of vocational education, the relation of such training to general education and to existing economic and social conditions and the extent of need for an expanding program.

The Executive Council reported that the Vocational Education Commission "is headed by Dr. Floyd Reeves of the School of Education, University of Chicago. Dr. Reeves will represent four government departments and the Tennessee Valley Authority where he has been in charge of education. Labor is represented on this commission by John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor; Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer, United Mine Workers of America; Elizabeth Christman, of the International Glove Workers Union of America."

W

WAGES AND HOURS.

The report of the AFL Executive Council that the share of working men and women in recovery expresed in terms of employment, wages, hours and purchaasing power, has not been marked by social justice standards was regarded as so important that the convention not only concurred in the report, but urged that it be given "careful consideration of every person interested in the economic welfare of the workers" and recommended that the affiliated international organizations publish it in their trade journals. The Council pointed out that increased output of the workers, along with lengthened hours, low weekly earnings and rising living costs, accompanied with millions of jobless, shows the necessity for drastic reduction in the length of the work week.

WAR.

Embargoes.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council, with instructions to have a thorough study made of the subjects before "preparing such legislation as is necessary," a resolution "condemning all wars of aggression," pledging the A. F. of L. "to oppose the entrance of the United States into such wars," and favoring "an embargo on munitions and war materials to aggressor nations." The resolutions said that international developments indicate that a war of major proportions may soon involve the people of the world, that "experience has proved that war brings only disaster and suffering to organized labor and the majority of the population," and held it to be "in the interest of the American people that the United States should not countenance a drive toward war in which this country is bound to become involved."

International Disputes.—The convention reaffirmed its previous declarations condemning war as a method of settling international disputes. This action was taken in lieu of a resolution which declared that "war is a source of fabulous profit" for manufacturers of ammunition and other war materials, claimed that the workers "have nothing to gain but everything to lose" from war, urged the United States "to declare sanctions against any aggressor nations," and recommended "that the American Federation of Labor launch a nation-wide movement opposing war."

WAR MUNITIONS.

Private vs. Public Manufacture.—The convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee referring to the AFL Executive Council, a number of resolutions advocating the government manufacture of munitions of war for the purpose of eliminating private profit. The report, which the convention adopted, said:

"The American Federation of Labor has time and again declared its emphatic protest against war as a method of adjusting disputes between nations. Many previous conventions have declared that private profit in the production of war munitions, had in themselves, on more than one occasion, led to crushing burdens of taxation being placed upon the people. Previous conventions have declared against the element of private profit in the production of war munitions. Attention has been called to the propaganda of those manufacturing munitions of war, and use of newspapers to inflame a people and their government.

"The American Federation of Labor has declared its conviction that our country, in the world as it is today, must maintain an adequate national defense, for in a world in which democracies are being destroyed and dictatorships supplanting them, no nation can feel itself safeguarded from the dangers of attack unles prepared to resist.

"Your committee is of the opinion that legislation eliminating private profit from the manufacture of munitions for national defense should be enacted, but that careful study should be made before such legislative measures are drafted, for today war munitions seemingly include almost the entire field of production, for while battleships and their ordnance are required on the one hand, so are textiles and medical supplies and an infinite number of other industrial products.

"Your committee therefore recommends that these resolutions be referred to the Executive Council with instructions to have a thorough study made before preparing such legislation as is necessary."

WELDERS.

International Charter.—Declaring that "past conventions of the A. F. of L. have in every instance held that all welding apparatus are tools to be used for their purpose by the several metal working trades," the convention nonconcurred in two resolutions calling for the issuance of an international charter to the welders. One of the resolutions instructed the AFL Executive Council to organize such a union and the other instructed the Executive Council to appoint a committee to report to the Council on the advisability of forming a national welders union.

WHITE COLLAR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS.

Permanent Works Program.—The convention concurred with a resolution pledging the American Federation of Labor to support legislation embodying "a permanent works program for all unemployed white collar workers, whether on relief or not, (such as statistical, research, technical, educational, social, recreational workers, and artists, writers, actors, dancers, musicians, etc.) at trade union wages and working conditions similar to that provided for by the Public Works Administration."

The resolution stated that prolonged unemployment among white collar workers is causing "depreciation of their skills and abilities," that only a small portion of them have been provided for by the Works Progress Administration even under the WPA "inadequate wage scale," and that "these unemployed white collar workers are capable of performing useful and much needed work."

WOMEN WORKERS.

Minimum Wage Laws.—Acting upon the report of the AFL Executive Council that on "June 1 the Supreme Court of the United States declared the New York minimum wage law for women and minors unconstitutional," that later the Supreme Court refused the re-hearing on the New York law, and that until a decision is made as to the constitutionality of the minimum wage law of the State of Washington, which the Supreme Court consented to review, "the future of such legislation is problematical," the convention declared that "in view of the position of the Supreme Court it appears plain that all future cases will result in similar decisions in spite of the growing and very decided favorable attitude of states toward such legislation," indicated by the fact that 18 states have already enacted minimum wage laws. The convention expressed the opinion that the action of the Supreme Court in holding minimum wage legislation unconstitutional is a subject "having the most vital implications for wage earners and our whole people."

WORKERS' EDUCATION BUREAU OF AMERICA.

Emergency Educational Program.—Pointing out that through a subvention during the last three years from the General Education Board the Workers' Education Bureau had been of great assistance to the Federal Government in the development of the emergency education program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in all sections of the country, the convention regretted that on July 1 of this year the General Education Board subvention was terminated on the ground that the need of the emergency service no longer existed and expressed the hope that in view of the Federal Government's plan to continue this program until next July that the subvention would be continued until the work developed in carrying out the emergency program was transformed to the public education system.

The convention also cited John L. Kerchen, Paul L. Vogt and Harry Russell for their effective work in connection with this program on the Pacific Coast, in the Middle West and in New England and commended "these educational representatives for distinguished cooperative service."

Fifteenth Anniversary.—The convention tendered "its fraternal greetings and good wishes" to the officers and members of the Workers' Education Bureau of America, which celebrates in 1936 15 years of continuous educational service to organized working men and women. "While maintaining its own integrity through the years," the convention said, "it has nevertheless worked out an organic unity with the movement which has been of the greatest assistance to the Federation and at the same time has enhanced the sphere of work of the Bureau."

Financial Support.—Directing attention to the fact that the American Federation of Labor had hitherto approved a plan for voluntary support of the Workers' Education Bureau by a per capita tax of one cent per member per annum on the affiliated national and international unions, the convention urged that every union not affiliated with the Bureau undertake such affiliation on a voluntary basis in order that "its activities may be expanded to serve all the membership of organized labor."

Labor Institutes.—The convention commended the Workers' Education Bureau for setting up institutes on the Wagner-Connery Labor Relations Act in 10 cities during the past year in cooperation with central bodies and local universities. These institutes the convention said provided a "medium for labor to understand the principles and practices of a basic law" and assisted in informing public opinion in the local communities.

Ohio Development.—The convention emphasized the importance of the achievement of the Workers' Education Bureau in developing a system of workers education in Ohio in cooperation with the Ohio State Federation of Labor, pointed out that the 1923 convention of the American Federation of Labor urged the establishment of a department of education in each of the state federations of labor, and urged that organized labor in other states study the Ohio plan and adopt a similar educational program in cooperation with the Workers' Education Bureau.

Research.—The inauguration of a division of research by the Workers' Education Bureau during the past year was commended as meeting the recognized need for informative material and praised the division for its factual material on the Social Security Act with especial emphasis on the importance of continuing its work on the "Case Book on Collective Bargaining" which is now nearing completion. "No such volume has ever been prepared and published in America before and we commend the Bureau on the vision in planning for its compilation and publication," the convention said.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Federal and State Legislation.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to support the drafting and enactment of federal and state legislation to remedy the handicap placed upon states which have enacted fair workmen's compensation laws in competition with states whose legislation is unfair, with specific reference to the problem presented by the fact that some states have recently enacted workmen's compensation laws to cover occupational diseases and accidents and that the less advanced states are thus providing attractive havens for unfair employers.

The Executive Council reported that "the recommendation to the 1935 convention that the Government should pay a share of the state compensation to victims of injury and occupational disease in industry was considered and it is believed that a satisfactory law to that effect can be enacted in the next session of Congress. This would affect only states that have state pool funds."

Occupational Diseases.—The AFL Executive Council in its report to the convention stressed the importance of legislation to obtain complete coverage of occupational diseases under workmen's compensation laws in all states and especially warned "that medical examinations, where necessary to safeguard the health of the worker, be carried out by strictly impartial physicians." The committee on the Executive Council's report recommended that the Council continue their "activity in securing legislation necessary to protect the unfortunate victims of occupational diseases and to reduce occupational hazards to a minimum."

In the discussion it was claimed that "there is no such thing as an impartial physical examination" and the suggestion was made that the American Federation of Labor should declare itself in opposition "to physical examinations of any worker until such time as a system of legislation has been enacted providing for the complete rehospitalization, rehabilitation, and compensation of those who removed from industry as the result of such examination." Following the discussion the convention referred the matter back to the Executive Council for further consideration.

Uniform Legislation.—The convention recommended "continuance of the well established policy of the American Federation of Labor to secure uniform workmen's compensation legislation." A resolution before the convention on this subject directed attention to the varying scope of protection given wage earners in different states under the operation of private insurance carriers organized for profit.

"The practice of insurance companies," the resolution said, "is to view the injured workman under the heavy handicap of urgent need as a litigant to be worsted in a legal duel at the expense of employer and employe alike rather than as a rightful recipient of compensation for injuries received." The resolution alleged that the "injured employe in Massachusetts receives only about 30 cents after medical, legal, investigation costs and profits are paid out of the premium dollar expended on his behalf by his employer as a cost of production ultimately assumed by the consumer."

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION.

Beet Workers—Victimization.—The convention concurred with a resolution protesting against certain statements by George M. Houston, director of Public Welfare of Weld County, Colorado, interpreted as a program of victimizing beet sugar workers, and recommended that "the system of administering work relief be revised to provide for representation of labor unions locally organized on all boards determining eligibility for public relief."

The resolution included a statement which it was alleged Mr. Houston sent to the beet laborers of Weld County containing the following paragraph: "When you must have relief, bring your contract and a statement from your farmer showing how much he paid you both for beets and other labor and whether or not he thinks you should be considered a relief responsibility of Weld County. You will also be required to turn in your automobile drivers' license and the license plates to your car when you are accepted as a client for general relief."

The resolution stated that this action of Mr. Houston leaves the possibility of relief for beet workers "to the caprice of the farmers who are their immediate employers," which was characterized as an attempt "viciously to intimidate workers sorely needing relief" and threatening "not merely the members of our unions, but every agricultural worker in Colorado and throughout the country."

Compulsory Employment in Agriculture and Processing Plants.—The convention adopted a resolution expressing the American Federation of Labor's unalterable opposition to "all forms of forced labor practices" in connection with WPA unemployment relief work, with specific mention of "open cooperation between WPA and relief officials with employers of farm, packing house and cannery labor."

The resolution charged that local, state and Federal relief agencies and WPA administrations have cooperated with large vegetable, cotton and other produce growers and agricultural interests to force the unemployed and WPA workers onto farms and into canneries and packing houses at below union wage rates and in some cases even below relief rates.

It was charged in addition that this practice has gone so far in some instances as to cause the dismissal of WPA workers who refuse jobs at "scabbing" and that in some communities "local and state relief and WPA projects have been delayed and shut down completely to carry through these forced labor and scabbing practices in the interests of agricultural employers." It was feared that if these compulsory labor practices are permitted in the agricultural field they would spread to industry.

Pay for Lost Time.—A resolution was concurred in by the convention petitioning the Works Progress Administration for "payment of wages to its employes for time lost through no fault of their own, including time lost upon termination of projects and delayed transfers to other projects." As a reason for this action the resolution declared that an administrative order of the WPA includes docking of WPA employes for time lost in absences caused by stoppage of work during inclement weather, holidays, illness and similar causes, resulting in "undue hardships and privation" for the "already underpaid Work Progress Administration workers."

Living Wage.—A resolution was concurred with by the convention urging all local, state and international unions to cooperate in securing for WPA workers a wage sufficient to enable them to live on "in health and decency." The resolution pointed out that millions of the unemployed workers "are without means of sustaining themselves and their families except through government help and said "the wage level of the 2,300,000 WPA workers, ranging as low as $21 a month," is insufficient to maintain decent living and health standards.

Prevailing Wage.—The convention concurred with a resolution placing the American Federation of Labor on record in favor of the establishment of prevailing pay rates for all Works Progress Administration workers "determined in each locality by the trade union organization in the respective field." It was charged in the resolution that although the Works Progress Administration "has recognized the principle that the workers shall receive the prevailing rate of pay," nevertheless the rates set by the state WPA administrators have in most cases been derived directly and solely from pre-existing hours and wages on all WPA project workers, including white collar workers, which procedure has not established "true and just prevailing rates."

Sick Leave and Vacations.—The convention concurred with a resolution instructing the American Federation of Labor to petition the Works Progress Administration for an immediate ruling providing for sick leave and vacations with pay for all WPA workers. The resolution said that under existing rules there was "no provision for sick leave and vacations with pay for non-administrative employes of the Works Progress Administration."

Skilled Workers.—The convention agreed to join with the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department in making a protest to the Works Progress Administration against the continuation of certain "loose practices" which it was alleged "tend to wreck the standards necessary for safe construction in the building industry," and recommended that in employment of all skilled workers under the WPA there be a bona fide board set up for the examination of such mechanics with regard to their "fitness" for the prospective assignments, with the provision that such board "consist of one member of the craft so examined, one employer of recognized standing in the community and one representative of the WPA service engineering department, and that only men passed by these be employed on skilled work to the end that the Government receive the proper grade of work in its respective endeavors."

The resolution on this subject considered by the convention said that under the so-called "security wage" many WPA local officials "either through a lack of understanding or favoritism have attempted to advance men into trades without the proper care so necessary to the training of apprenticeship and skilled craftsmen," and charged that the attempts of these local officials to produce mechanics for the work at hand are "destroying the orderly apprenticeship system of the skilled trades" which has developed through many years in the building industry and been found necessary to good and safe construction.

White Collar Workers—Union Recognition.—The convention concurred with a resolution instructing the American Federation of Labor to "aid all white collar unions in securing official recognition by the Works Progress Administration." The resolution stated that thousands of workers who are members of the A. F. of L. and other "protective organizations," including white collar workers, are employed by the WPA, and that it is to the interest of all workers that "the unions in their respective categories be given official recognition as representatives of the workers in their respective fields."

White Collar Workers—Wages.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring the establishment of a "minimum wage of $93.50 per month for intermediate workers with greater pay for professional and skilled workers" on WPA projects. The resolution bringing this matter before the convention claimed that wages now paid WPA white collar workers "are [illegible] inadequate" and directed attention to the different wage scales paid white collar workers depending on their being in the three categories mentioned.

Women Workers — Dismissal. — The convention concurred with a resolution protesting against a Works Progress Administration order arbitrarily reducing the percentage of WPA women workers employed in Colorado and recommending that "the WPA program be enlarged and extended to provide suitable and useful employment for all needy and employable women for Colorado and the entire nation, irrespective of arbitrary percentages which disregard human needs."

Y

YOUTH AND TRADE UNIONS.

Declaring that a large number of young people who have recently entered labor's ranks in various industries "are amongst the most underprivileged wage earners of our nation," and that various anti-labor movements are at work setting up special apprenticeship systems to get young people to do the work of adults at apprenticeship wages and developing so-called cultural activities designed to wean young people away from the bona fide organizations of labor, the convention resolved that the American Federation of Labor "undertake a campaign to promulgate union consciousness among America's young people," and organize them into their respective national, international and federal labor unions.

Issue in A. F. of L. Controversy With C. I. O. Explained By President Green at Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

committee pleaded: "Please dissolve this movement; please abide by the decision of the convention. We beg of you to do it." And what was the answer? You know—refusal to every appeal.

Then we held another meeting in May and again we said, "Come on and meet with us, let us find a basis of accommodation. The interests of the workers transcend the interests of everybody else. Come on." The answer was silence. Nobody came. How could we confer? How could we talk when nobody came? Who made the pleas and the offers for conferences? It is the Council that is denounced as the culprit here.

Unions Are Suspended

Very well—then charges were filed. Months had then elapsed and the Council then notified them that charges were filed. The Council said, "Come and answer the charges. Please come, I beg of you to come, I entreat you to come." The answer again was silence—"No, we will not come." My God, what must men do?

Well, the Council still has a little dignity and it proceeded to listen to the charges and weigh them carefully.

Then it rendered a decision, and that decision was made, dissolving this movement that is ripping the American Federation of Labor asunder, that is tearing the central bodies apart, that is going through the State Federations of Labor, that is causing hate and bitterness where harmony and good will should prevail.

We give you thirty days to make your choice. Either stop it and come back home to us or stay where you are and outside the American Federation of Labor. That was only done after months of appeal, letters of invitation and begging on our knees for conferences and for discussion.

I maintain that those organizations made their choice—not the Executive Council, but these Unions. Now if they wanted to be represented here why didn't they say, "All right, we are good sports; the only court set up by the American Federation of Labor has decided we are wrong. We believe we are right, but we will reluctantly yield and we will come to the Tampa convention and fight it out there."

They didn't do that, they wouldn't do that. Why, some of them stopped paying dues to the American Federation of Labor on their membership last spring and haven't paid a penny to the American Federation of Labor ever since. Is there any significance attached to that? What does refusal to pay dues to the American Federation of Labor mean? You paid yours, and that is the reason you are here. They must have been anticipating something.

Council Appoints New Committee

That wasn't all. Following that action the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union in convention adopted a resolution calling upon both sides to appoint committees for the purpose of conferring and trying to find a basis of settlement. That occurred the first of last October.

It did not take the Executive Council twenty-four hours to decide that question. It said yes, we will appoint a committee, we will create one now, and within an almost unbelievably short space of time the Council appointed its committee, and we sent the communication to the officer of the Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union, accepting his proposal, and a committee was appointed, all of the members of which are held in high regard and high esteem by every one of you—Vice President George Harrison, Vice President Felix Knight, Vice President Matthew Woll—every one of them fair and reasonable men.

We said, now the committee stands ready. The Council said when it rendered its decision that these organizations must withdraw from the CIO, but we will not press that. Without commitments, without qualifications, without conditions of any kind, sit down at the conference table with us and let us settle our differences.

CIO Refuses to Name Committee

The committee is still standing and we have said, "Please come," and the answer has been no. The CIO refused to appoint a committee. It would not and it will not meet. If the committee named by the Executive Council or any member of it is objectionable to the CIO, we will put on the committee members who are perfectly satisfactory to them.

Well, they met and considered the matter thirty days after we appointed our committee. We believed on the first of October if the CIO would appoint its committee a settlement would be reached and these Unions would be here at Tampa. But how could that be done when they would not come? So they decided that no committee would be appointed. They prevented even my good friend, Max Zaritsky, from carrying out his idea that a committee be appointed, and they said instead the chairman of the CIO would meet with the President of the American Federation of Labor. Immediately when I got the telegram advising me of that fact I answered. I stated that a committee had been appointed by the Executive Council, that it stood ready to meet with a committee from the CIO, the Council had decided that the matter should be adjusted through committee. Max Zaritsky had asked that that be done, the convention had asked that it be done, and we wanted to conform to their wishes. I said, "Even though the Council decided that it should be taken up through committees and I can't change that, I will meet you at your convenience and try to find a basis of settlement." Immediately a telegram that you would not like and would not relish was received, refusing then to meet. That happened about ten days before the convention.

There is the story. There is the naked story. There is the truth. There are the facts presented to you. They cannot be challenged. They cannot be denied. Men, red-blooded men, what would you do under those circumstances? How much humiliation must you suffer? To what depths must you go?

Industrial vs. Craft Unionism Is False Issue

Why, my friends, it is not the question of industrial versus craft unionism. Let us strip that for a moment. I have repeatedly said we apply both forms and will continue to do it. No convention of the American Federation of Labor is for one form and against the other, for one exclusively and against the other exclusively. We gave the United Mine Workers of America an industrial charter, giving it jurisdiction over all men employed in and around the mines, and that jurisdiction will never be interfered with. The Garment Workers have their industrial organization.

Only a few months ago the Executive Council gave to the United Automobile Workers an industrial charter, practically speaking reserving only for the craft organizations those men who stand out distinctly and separately from the mass production workers. We gave them jurisdiction over every man employed in an assembly plant. Who organized them? Why, when we went into the automobile field we found every officer who now represents them working as nonunion men in automobile factories. We spent $250,000 to organize them. No CIO organized that mass production industry.

Who organized the rubber workers? In the same way we found their officers working in the rubber factories, never identified with any Union, and when we suckled them to our breast, nourished them and gave them life they left us—ingratitude more base than traitorous arms!

Some of you talk here tonight as though no attempt was made to organize the mass production industries until recently. The Automobile Workers' organization, the Rubber Workers, the Unions in cement and aluminum, the distillery workers, the flour and cereal workers, the workers in the Remington-Rand plants—that is the answer. There it is in the report, and we are doing it now, spending our thousands. We are the ones who are carrying on the organization work.

Where is the issue, then? The central bodies, the State Federations of Labor, our volunteer organizers and our paid organizers are at it every minute. And you representatives of Federal Labor Unions who seem to show nothing but contempt and hostility to the American Federation of Labor are here because the American Federation of Labor organized your groups. And you haven't had any trouble about industrial versus craft unionism of any consequence. That is a fictitious issue, and there is no issue that transcends in importance, unity and solidarity within the movement.

Seeks United Labor Movement

I am amazed at the mental attitude of some of the speakers toward the American Federation of Labor, but I am consoled by the fact that when the mighty Lincoln gave his life to save the Union there were many who denounced him, calling for something else. My friends, I would do anything in the world to unite this movement. I have gotten on my knees. I have silently suffered from humiliation and insult, and I will suffer again if I can only unite this movement. There is no sacrifice, I care not what it is, that I am unwilling to make in order to unite the movement, and if I felt that I was responsible for tearing it and ripping it asunder, I would make a confession and beg for forgiveness.

Now I have told the story—unassailable facts.

Out in Seattle the Newspaper Guild called a strike in a newspaper plant where it had only a small percentage of its workers organized, but the workers in the Central Body of Seattle, loyal and devoted members of the American Federation of Labor, rallied to the support of the Newspaper Guild, and the responsibility for making that strike a success must be given to the Central Body of Seattle, and not the CIO. What attitude ought the representatives of the Newspaper Guild show to the ones who made that strike a success? Ingratitude, I repeat, is the basest of crimes.

Council's Action Was Proper

I am speaking with feeling because men get up and denounce the Council because it tried to save the Federation and save unity. They denounce the American Federation of Labor, and for what? They say the Executive Council exceeded its authority. Who is convinced by that argument? If a house is on fire, what do you do? You pour water on it.

The Council had to do one of two things—it had to surrender, humiliate itself, prostrate itself and bring reproach upon this movement, or pour water on the fire and put it out. You wouldn't have an organization that would sit by and let your movement be destroyed. You would not stand for it one minute, any more than you would stand idly by and let your own Union be destroyed.

Majority Rule Must Be Observed

Now, my friends, questions will be decided here by a majority vote. When they are, will that be the decision of this convention?

Let me ask you if those who demand the right to be here under the circumstances described, in order to vote, would not abide by the majority rule when they voted in the Atlantic City convention, what assurance have we that they would abide by the majority rule here? It is a rule of equity that those who come pleading equity must come into the court with clean hands.

First of all, the decision of the Atlantic City convention should be respected and observed. That is only fair and just. I don't know what the future has in store for us. I cannot tell, but I do know that no self-respecting movement, no self-respecting organization of labor will stand for minority rule and minority control.

I am willing to abide by the decision of the majority. No man who believes in any form of organization is denied the opportunity to argue here and to vote here for any form of organization he believes in. This is an open forum, and if he can, by argument, and persuasion, prevail upon a majority to go with him, then he wants and he has a right to demand that majority rule be respected. But when you attempt to force something upon a man, try to make him submit to your will, you have rebellion immediately.

The United Mine Workers of America occupies the warmest spot in my heart of any Union connected with the American Federation of Labor. I have been connected with it all my life. I have given it the best of my time and service. I cannot begin to express to you the sincere regret I feel over the unwise leadership that has led that splendid organization to the present position it occupies, and I am of the opinion that in the days to come sober judgment will assert itself, righteousness will prevail, and common sense will influence the minds and hearts of all connected with that movement.

Now, my friends, the door is still open, even under this report. The hand of fellowship is extended. The appeal is made—come back with us. Here is your house and here is your home. There cannot be two successful rival movements in America. Our enemies will rejoice and our membership will suffer if division continues. We will give, we will go a long way, we will hold out the hand of fellowship and good will, and if we can be permitted to sit at the conference table with the representatives of these organizations, I am confident and sure that a settlement can be reached.